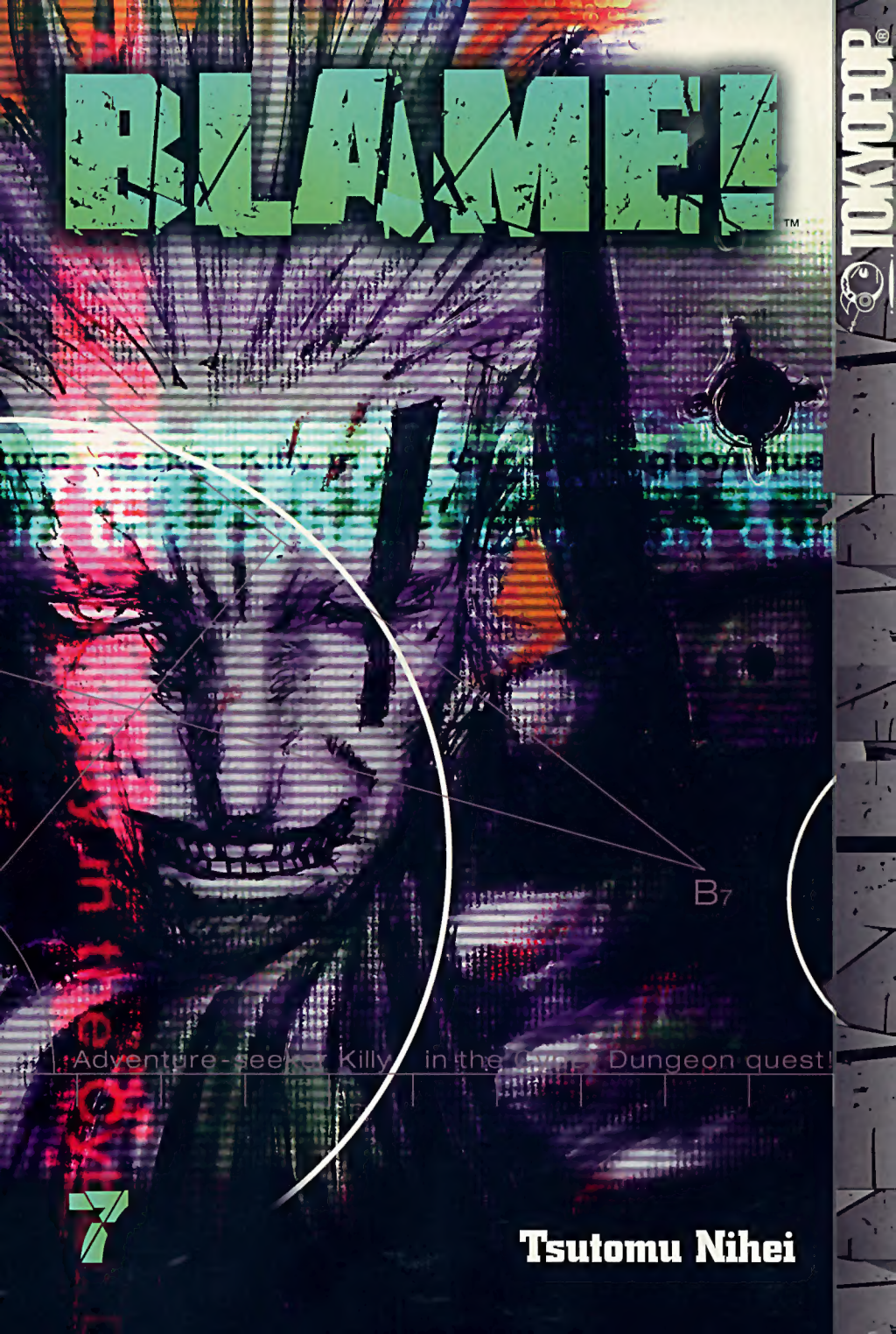
BLAME!
TOKYOPOP
B7
Adventure-seek Killy in the Dungeon quest!
7
Tsutomu Nihei

CIBO シボ
KILLY キリイ

Silicon-Creatures
Schiff
Bion

DHOMOCHEVSKY

BLAME!

Volume Seven
by Tsutomu Nihei

TOKYOPOP®

HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

BLAME! Volume 7

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BLAME!

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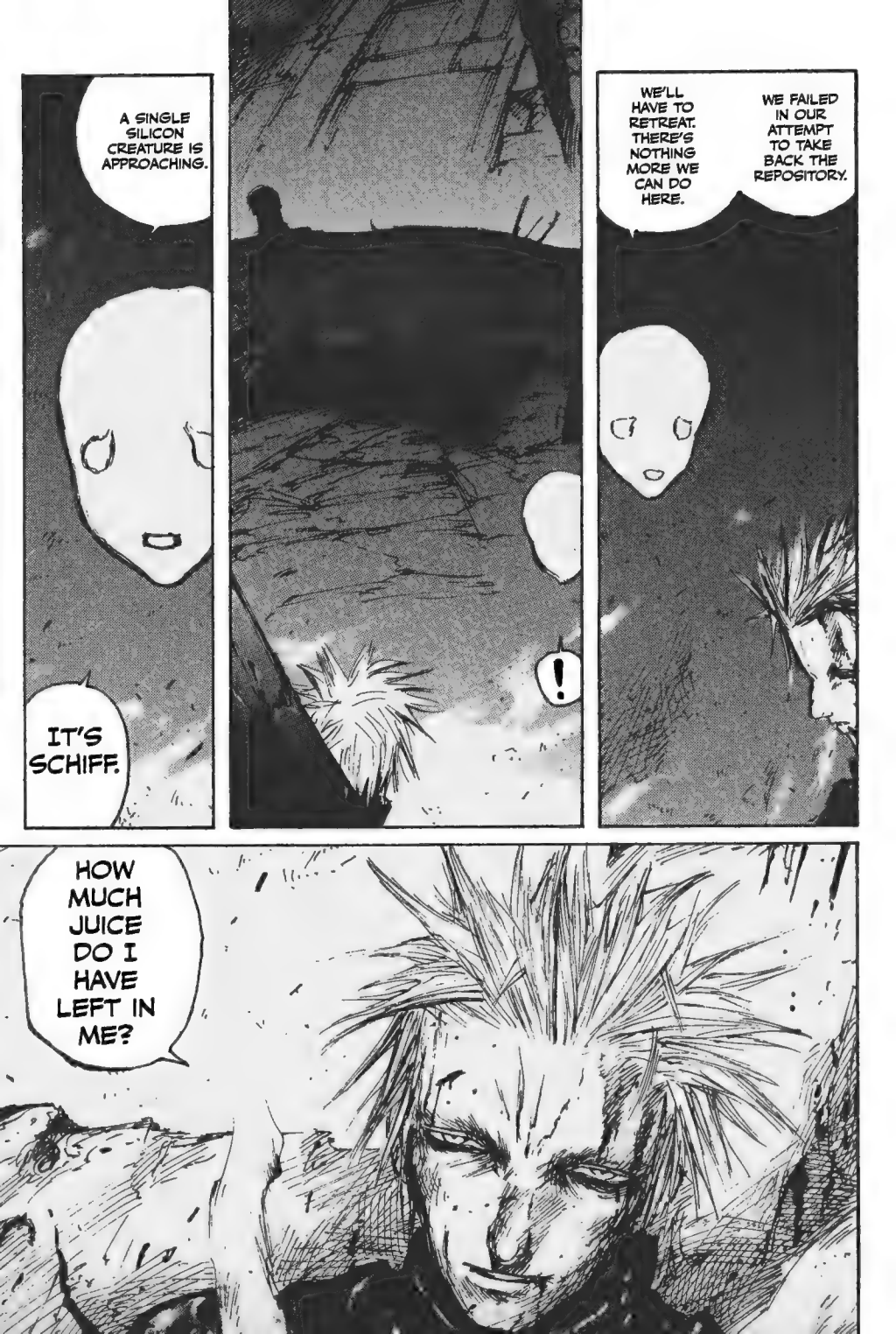
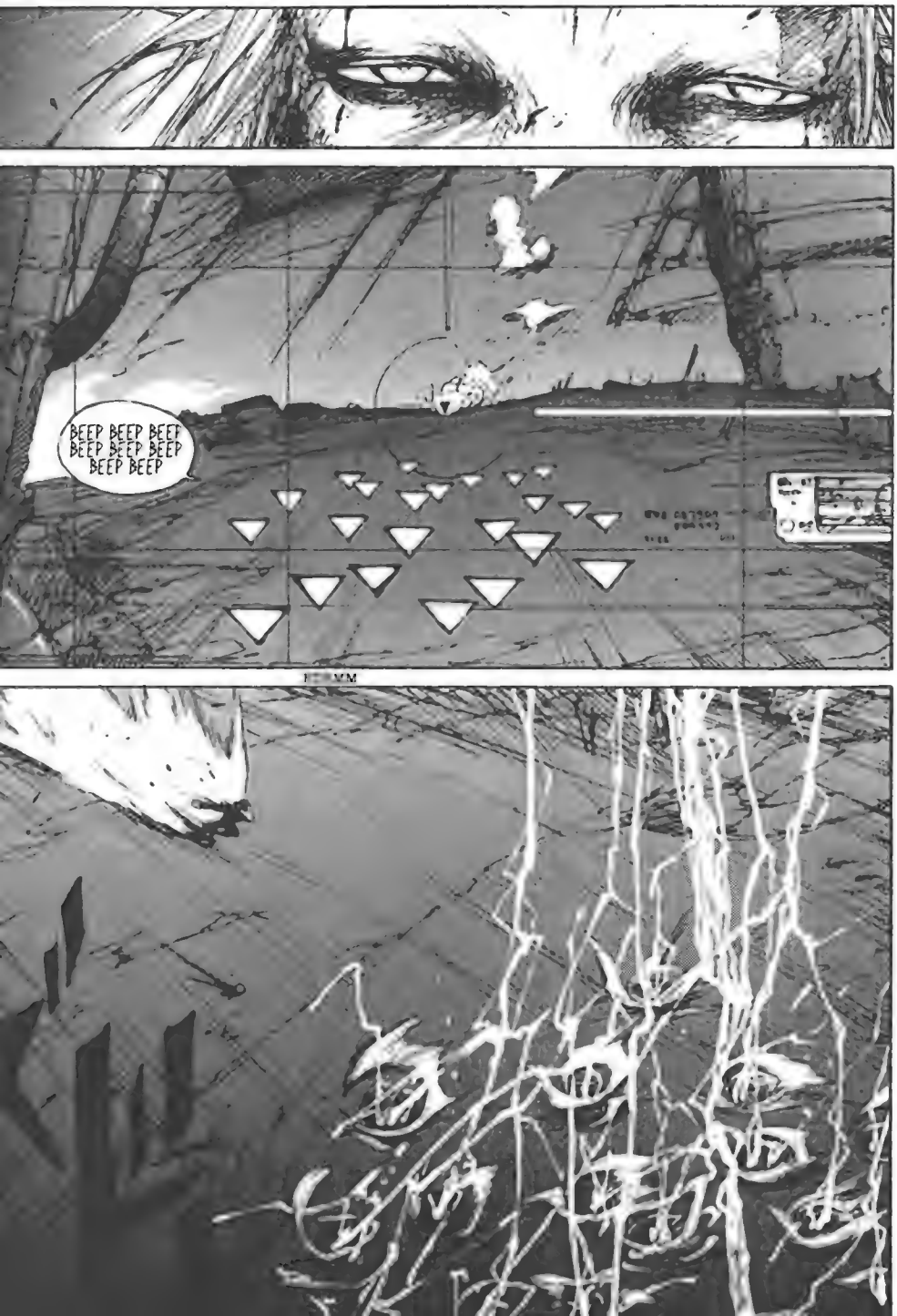
177

WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON? I'M NOT GETTING ANY BETTER.
FSHHH
DAVINEL MUST HAVE SOMEHOW FROZEN OR DESTROYED THE SYSTEM.
I'M NOT GETTING A RESPONSE FROM ANY OF THE CONVERSION TOWERS.
BLINK
SORRY, DHOMO-CHEVSKY. IT'S NOT WORKING.

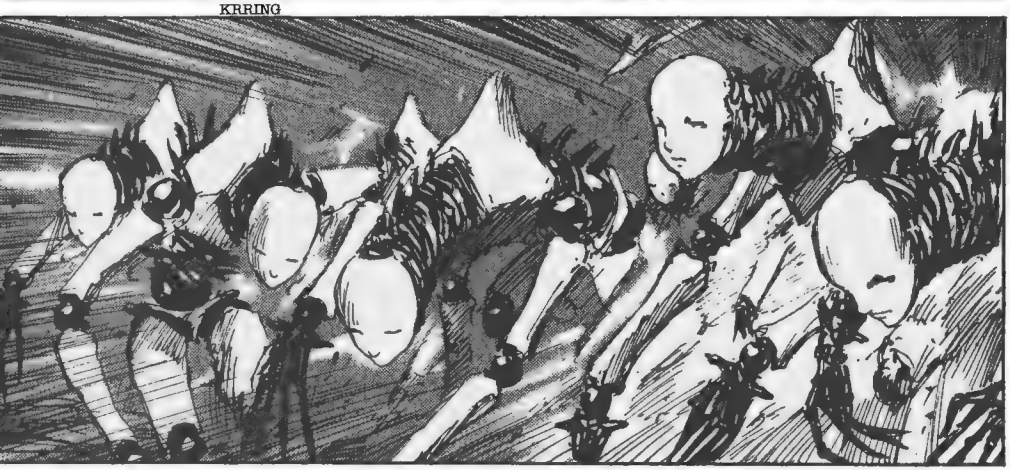

A SINGLE SILICON CREATURE IS APPROACHING.
IT'S SCHIFF.
!
WE'LL HAVE TO RETREAT. THERE'S NOTHING MORE WE CAN DO HERE.
WE FAILED IN OUR ATTEMPT TO TAKE BACK THE REPOSITORY.
HOW MUCH JUICE DO I HAVE LEFT IN ME?

IF YOU GET WRECKED AGAIN, I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO BRING YOU BACK.
DON'T GET ANY CRAZY IDEAS.
MM
I GUESS WE'RE TOO LATE.


BEEP BEEP BEEP
BEEP BEEP BEEP
BEEP BEEP

BWHOOOSH

KRRING



CRUNCH

GLING

CLANG

GRAKK

THUMPA THUMPA

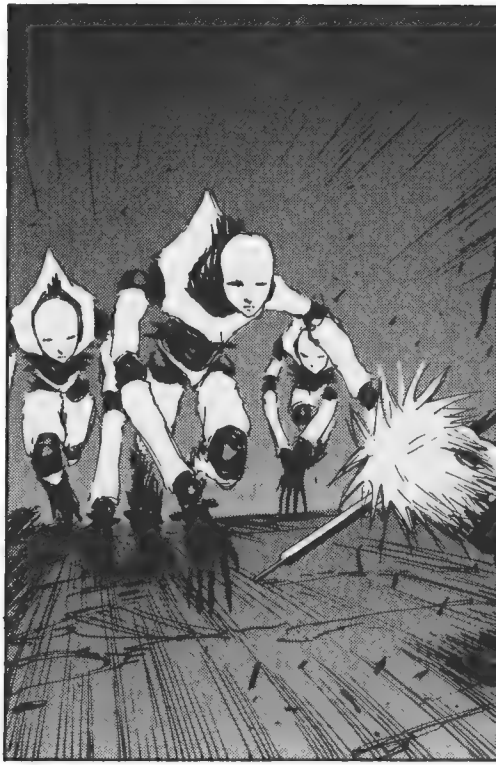
GRRK

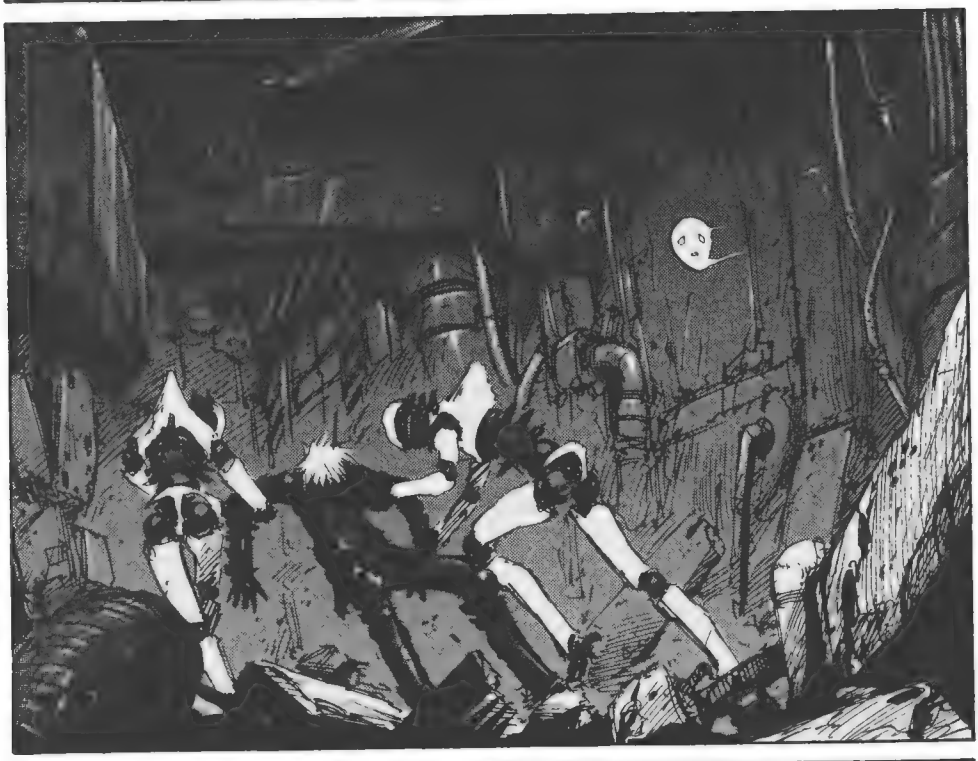
DMM

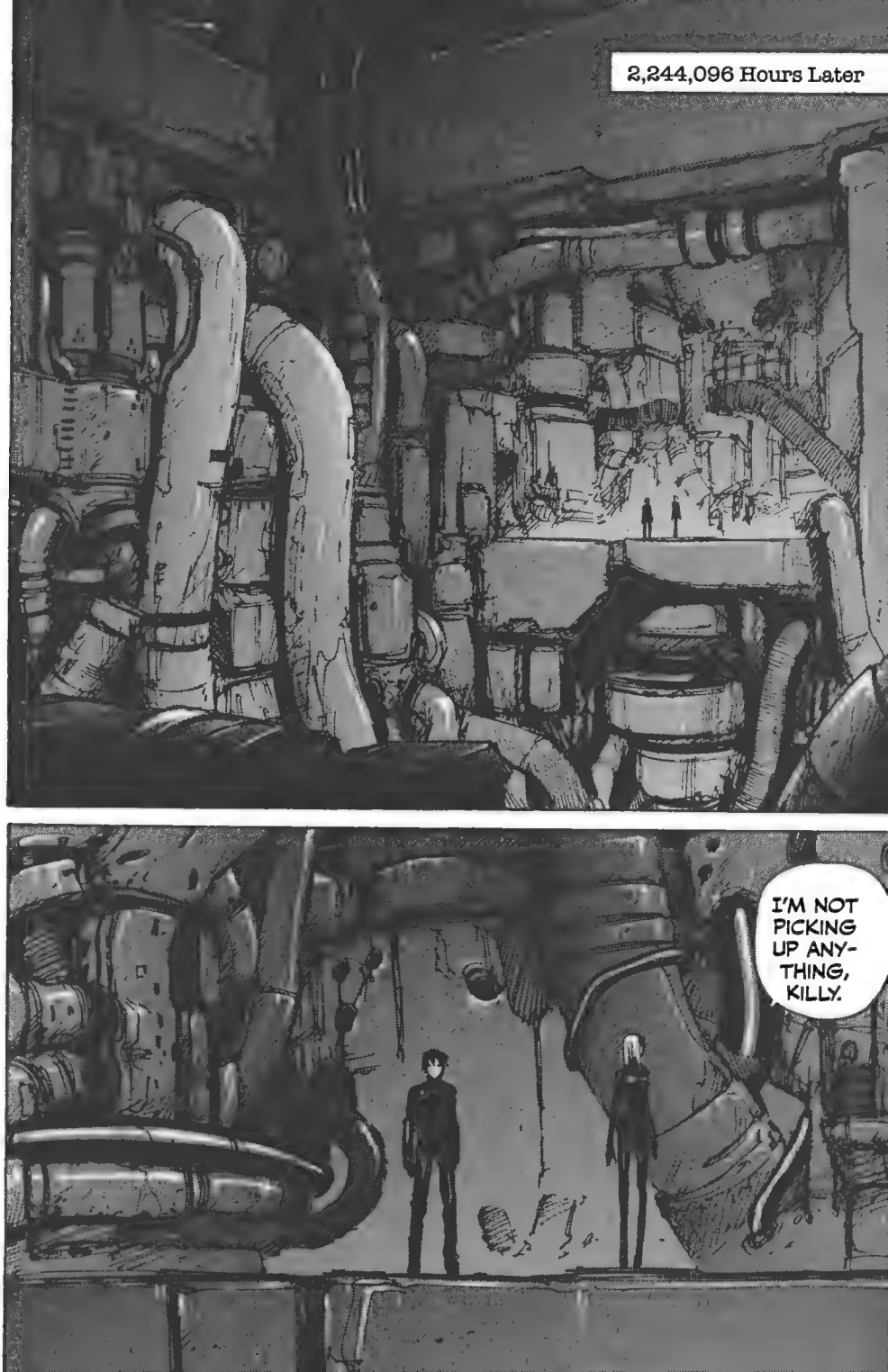
BA-BLAM

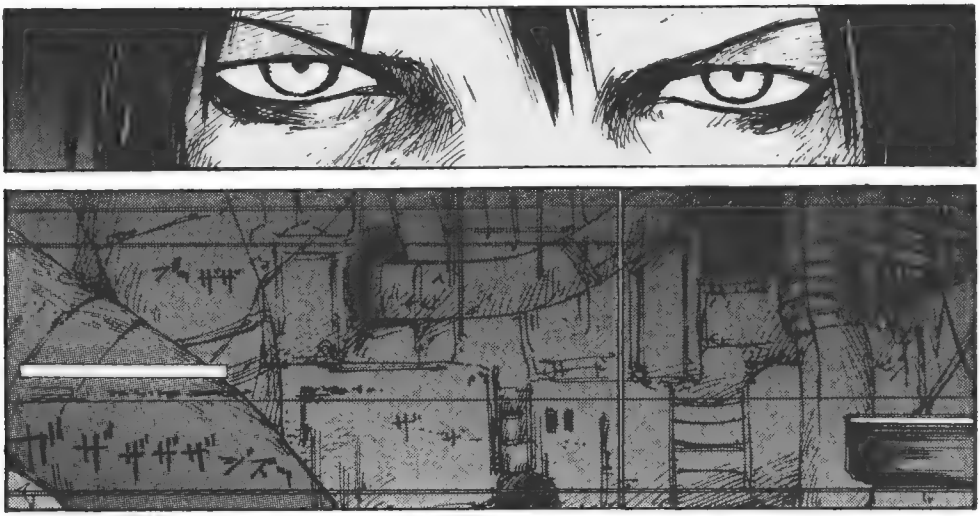
BA-BLAM

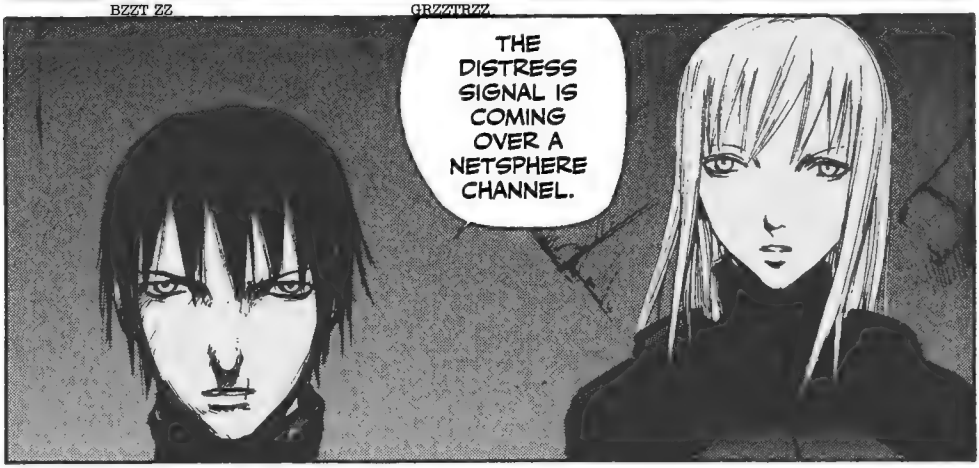
THUCK


GINGG

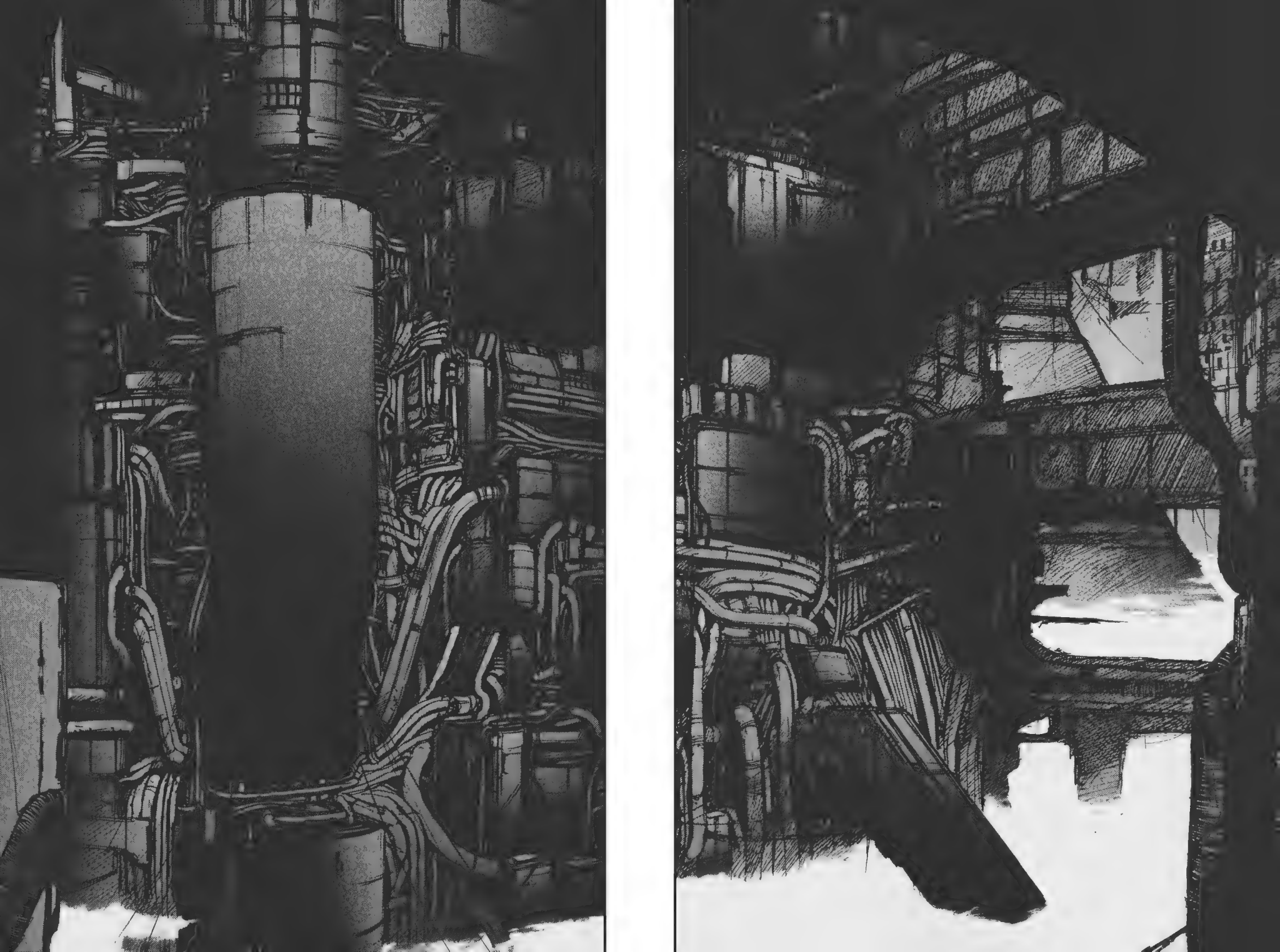



2,244,096 Hours Later
I'M NOT PICKING UP ANY-THING, KILLY.


BZZT ZZ
GRZZTRZZ

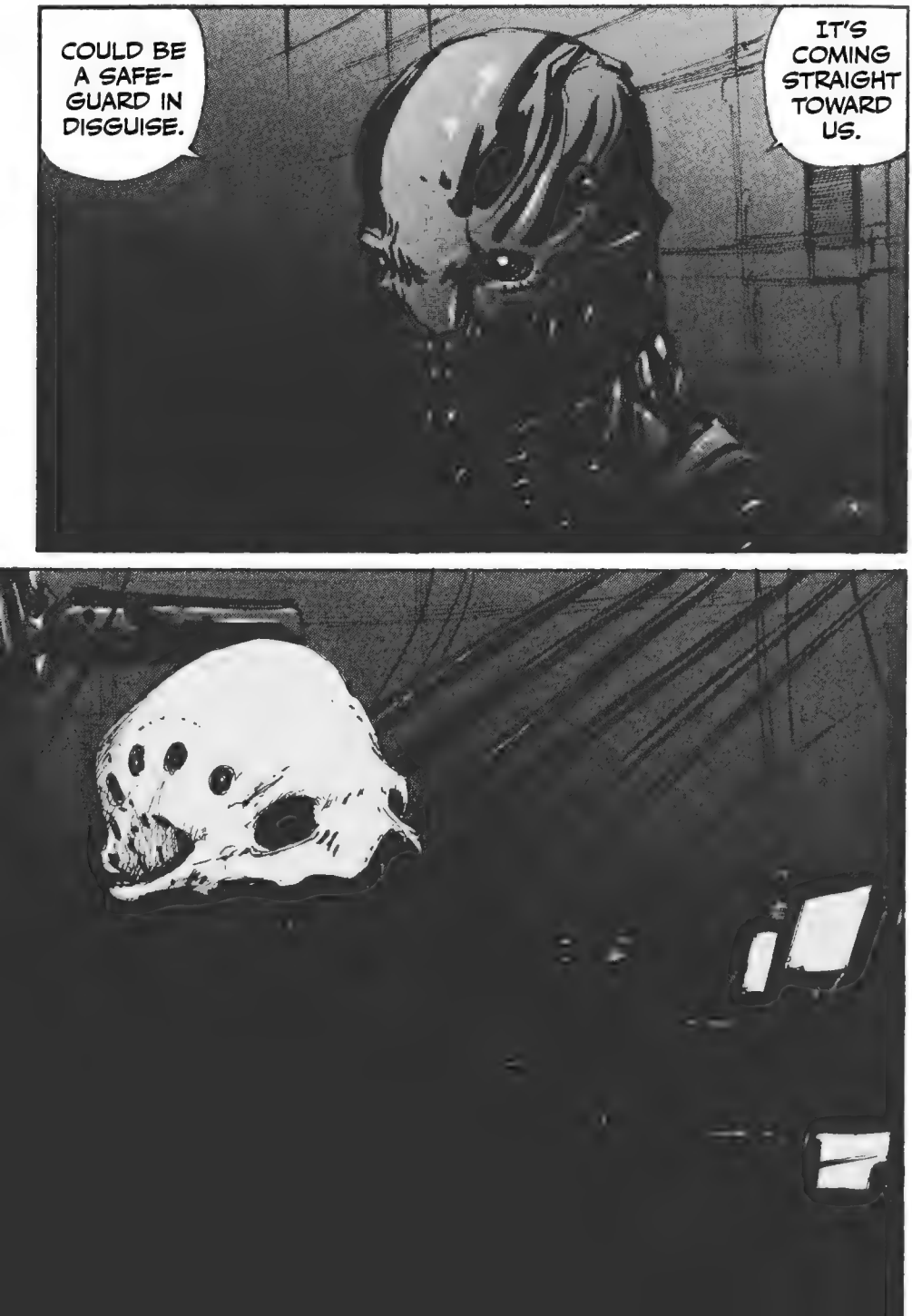

THE DISTRESS SIGNAL IS COMING OVER A NETSPHERE CHANNEL.

THE SOURCE IS IN THIS DIRECTION.

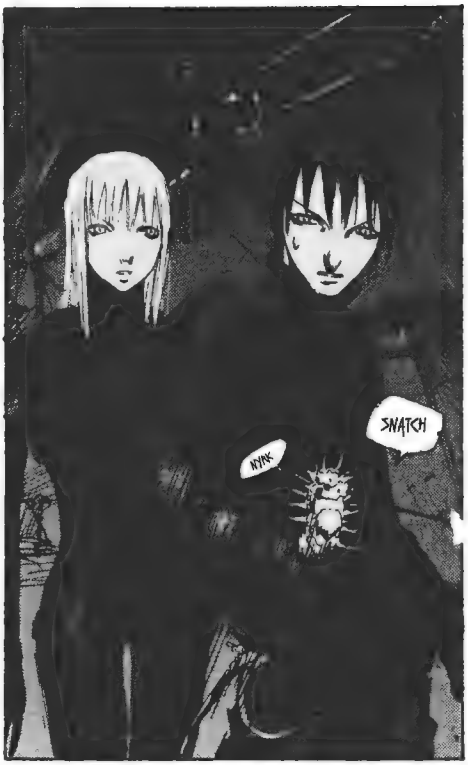


WHRRRR
TUNK

PCELL HAS FOUND SOMETHING.
DAVINEL ...


COULD BE A SAFE-GUARD IN DISGUISE.
IT'S COMING STRAIGHT TOWARD US.

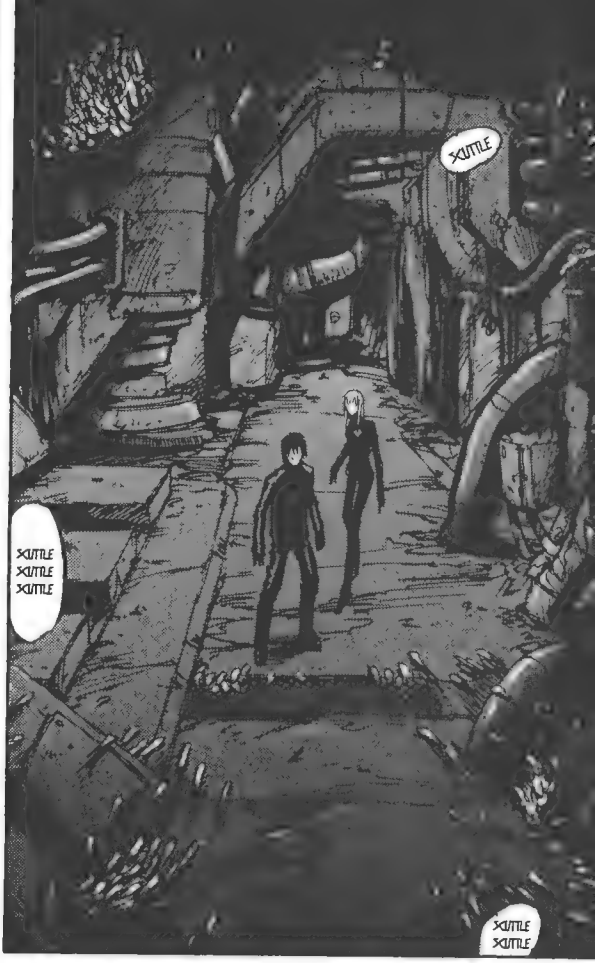
SQUEEZE



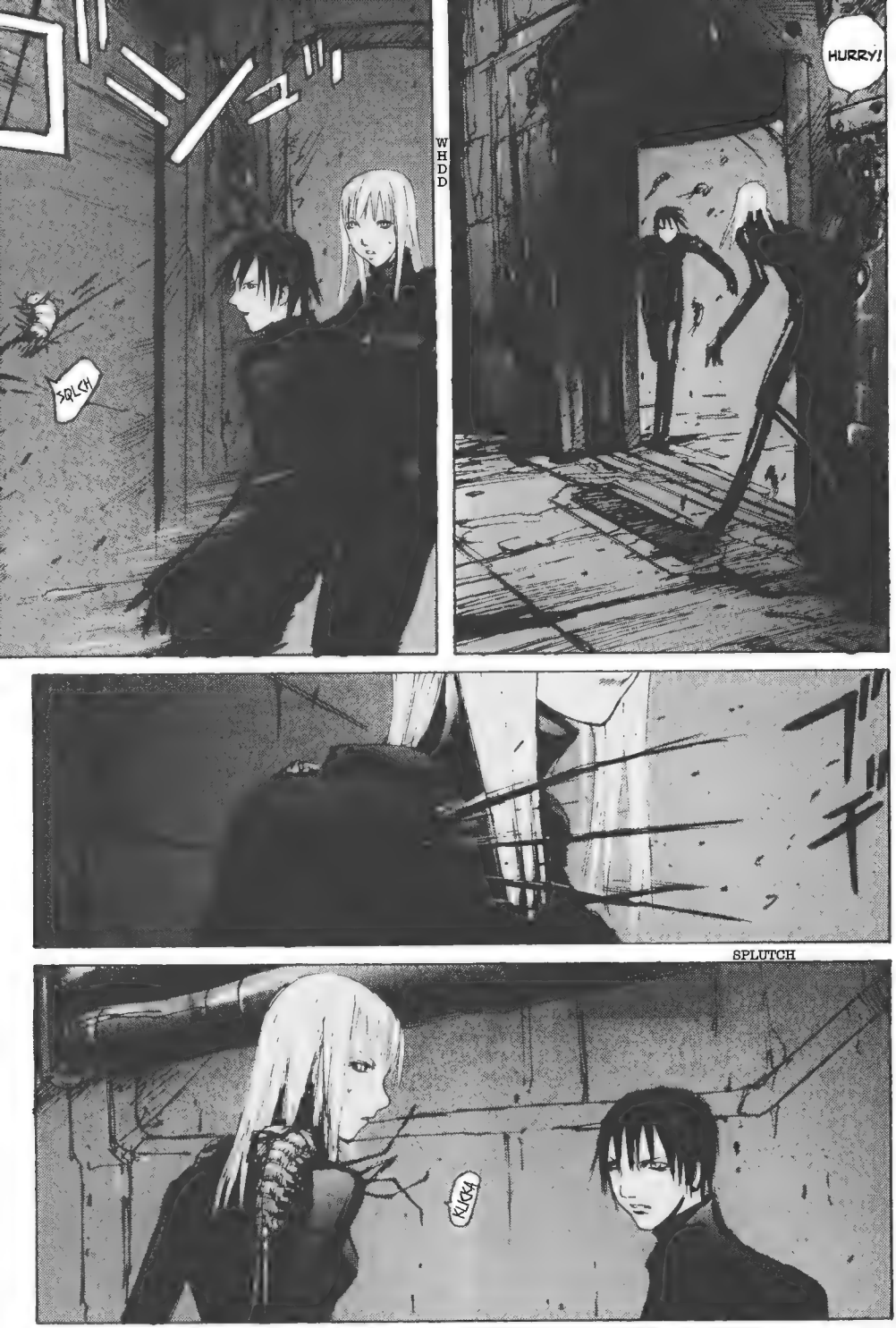
BRAKK

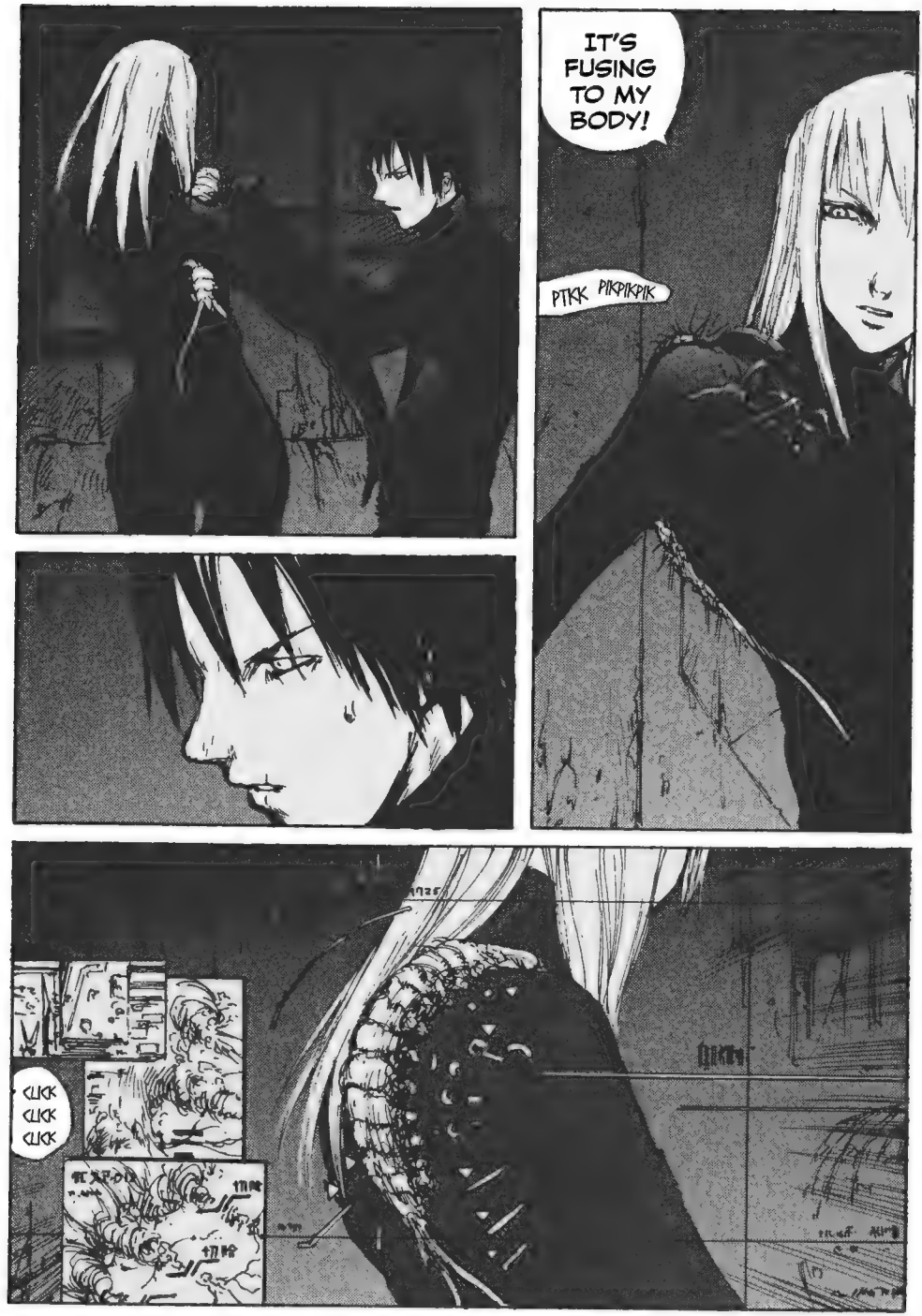
TOSS

RRIP


SCUTTLE
SCUTTLE
SCUTTLE
SCUTTLE
SCUTTLE

WHICK
WHICK
WHICK


WHDD
HURRY!
SQLCH
SPLUTCH
KLICK


IT'S FUSING TO MY BODY!
PTKK PIKPIKPIK
CLICK CLICK CLICK

SLUMP

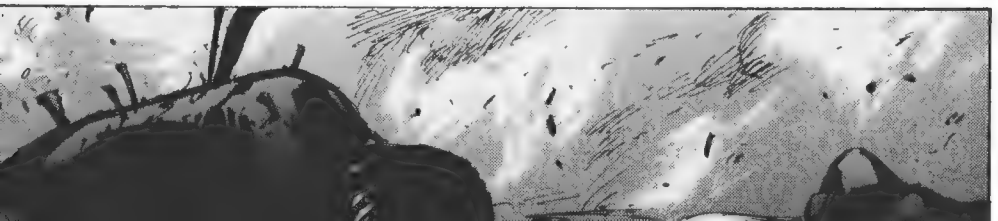
KNOCK KNOCK

BOOM BOOM

KBOOOOM

RRRUMBLE
DMDMDMDM

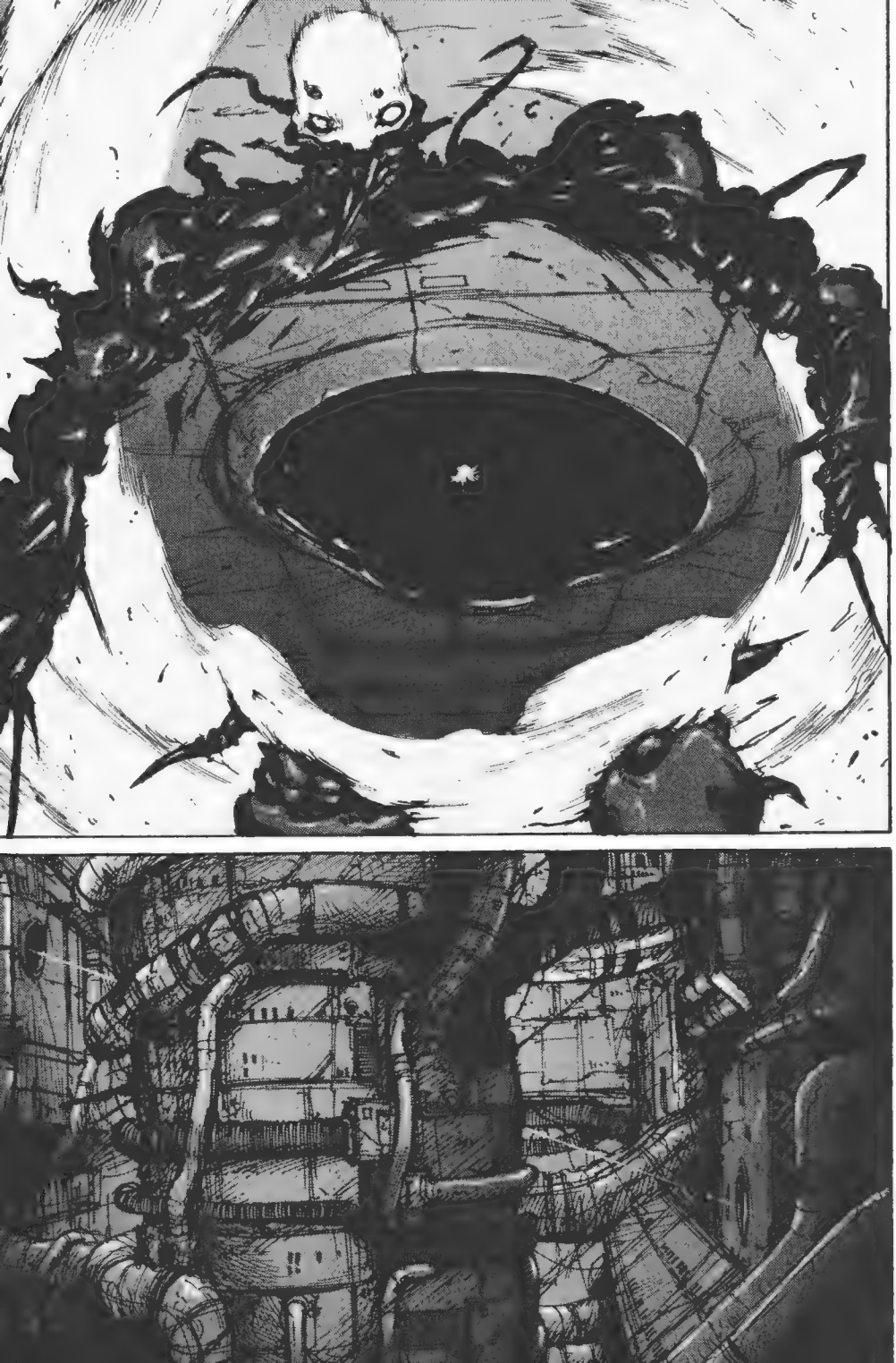
ガ"ガ"ガ"



CRACK CRACK CRUNCH

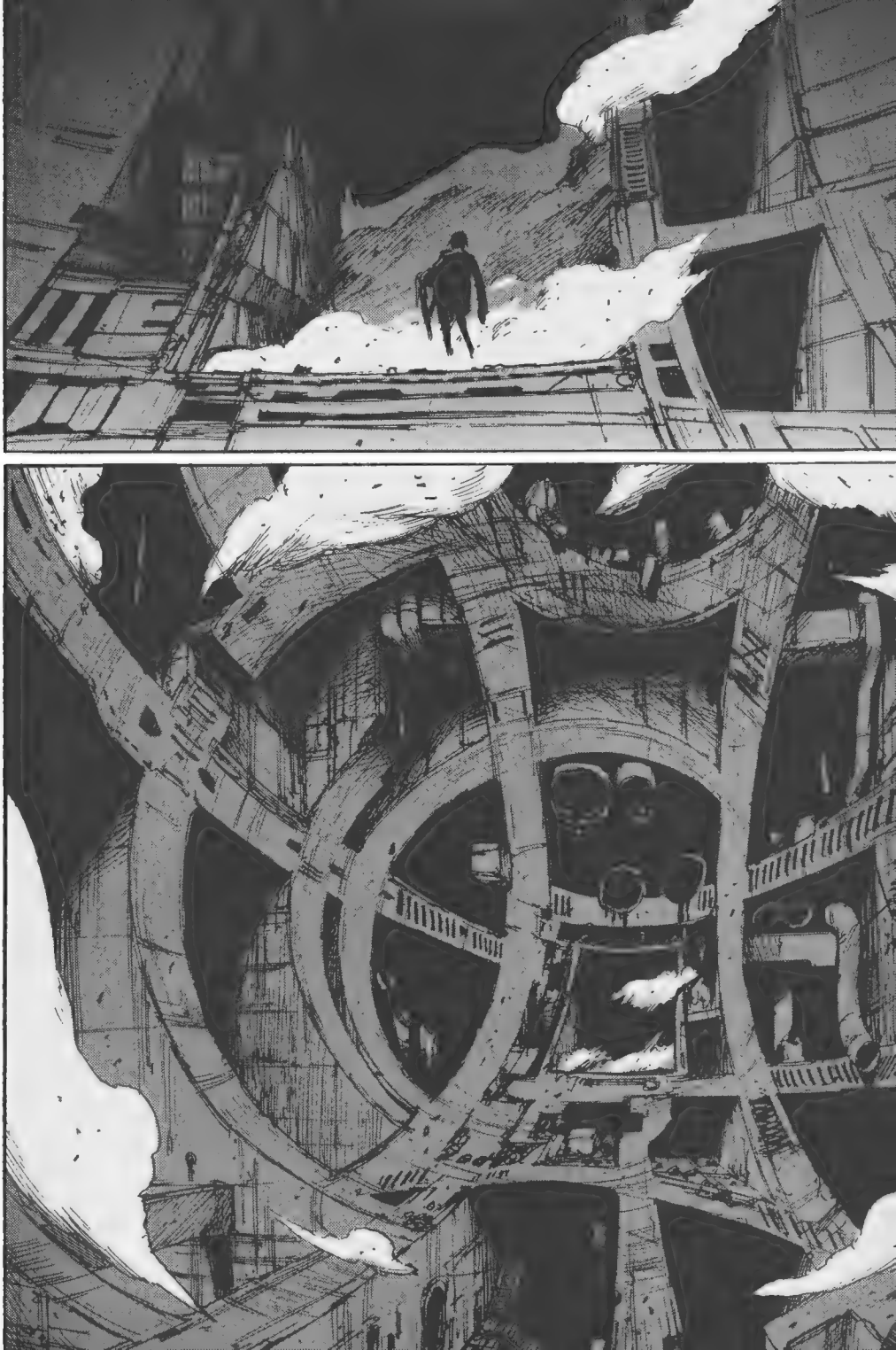
WOH
HOH
HOH
HOH
HOH!!
HEH
HEH!
HEH HEH. HEH HEH.
DRIP DRIP DRIP

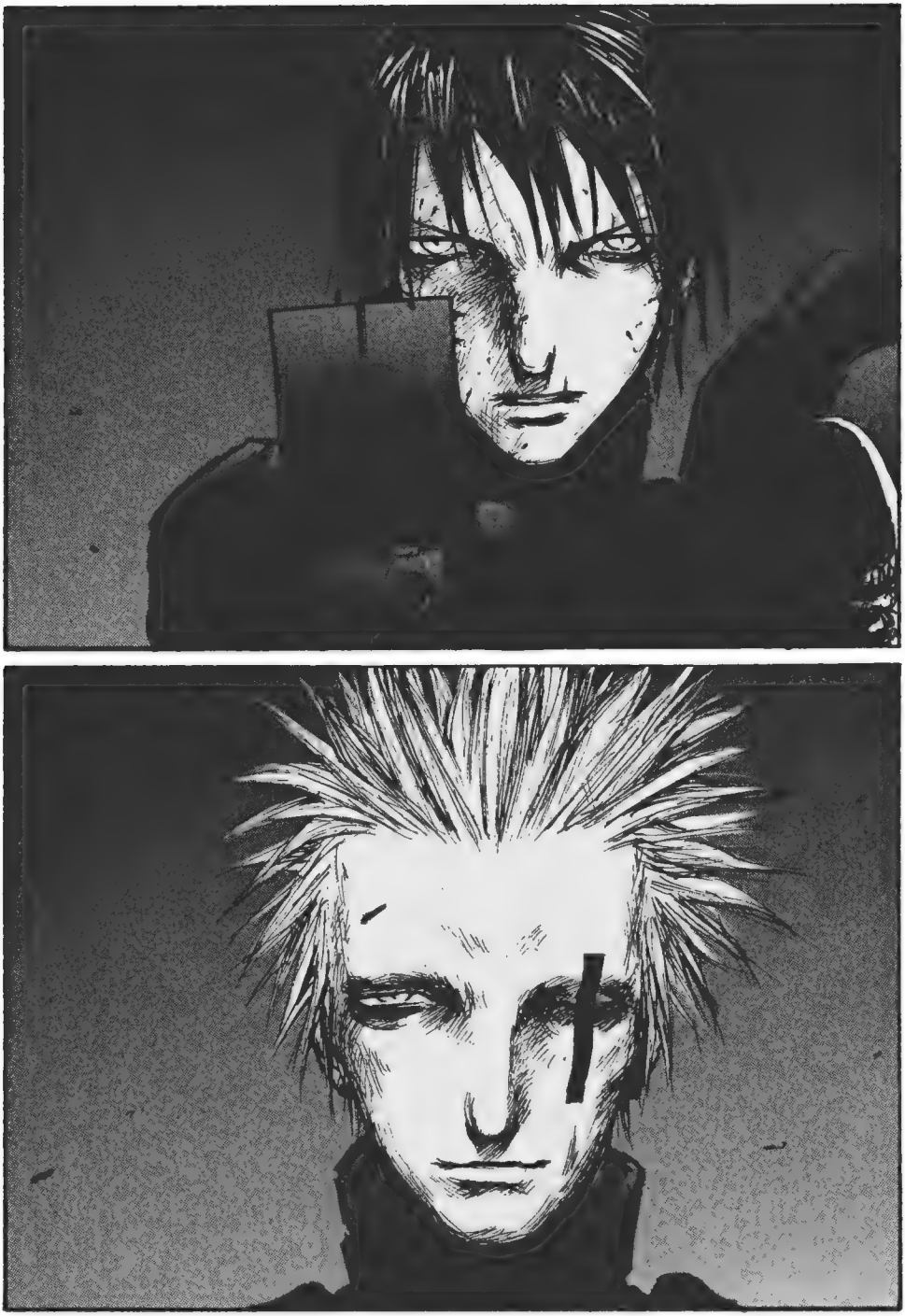
BLAM



B-B-BOOM

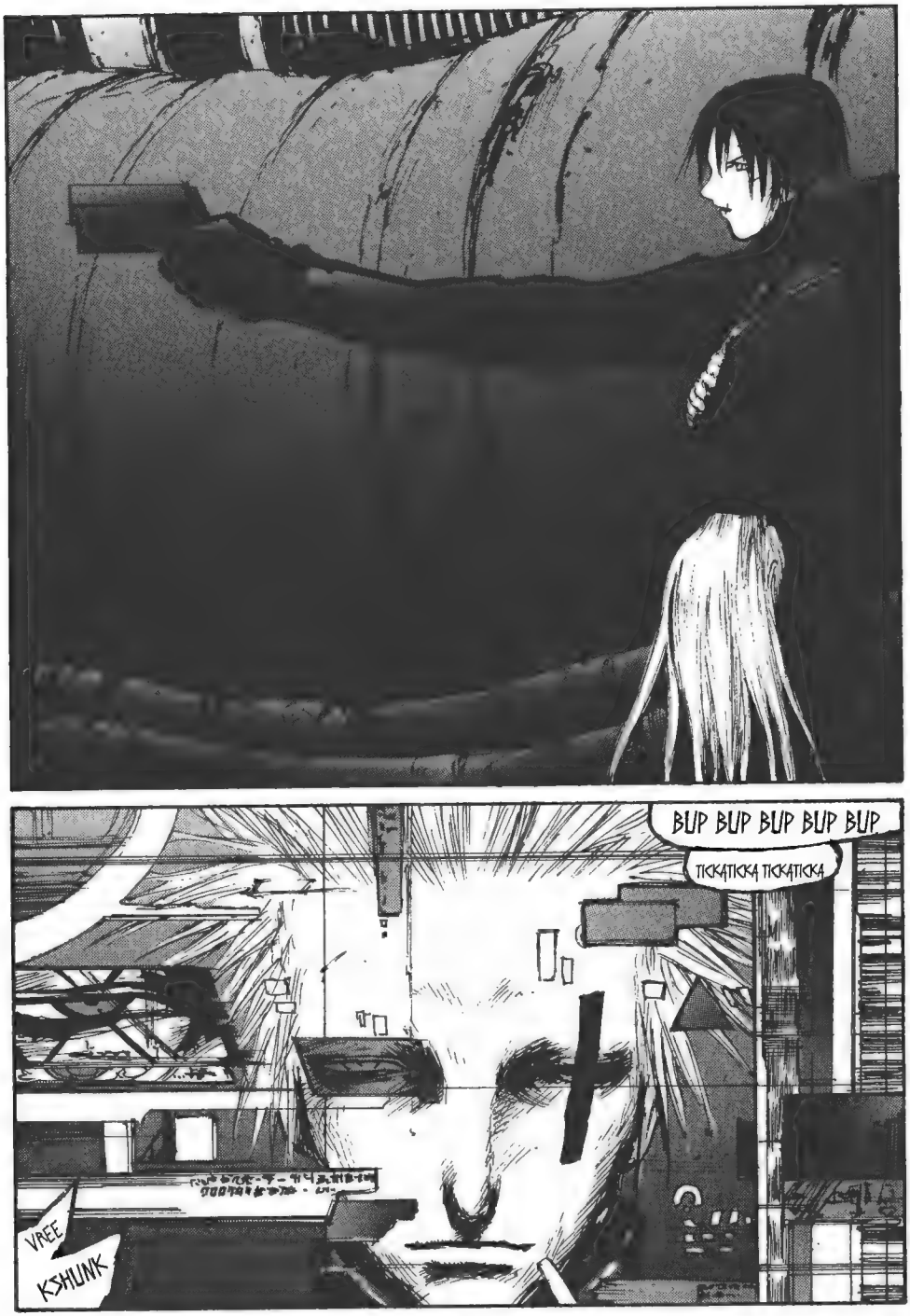
ゴゴゴゴゴ



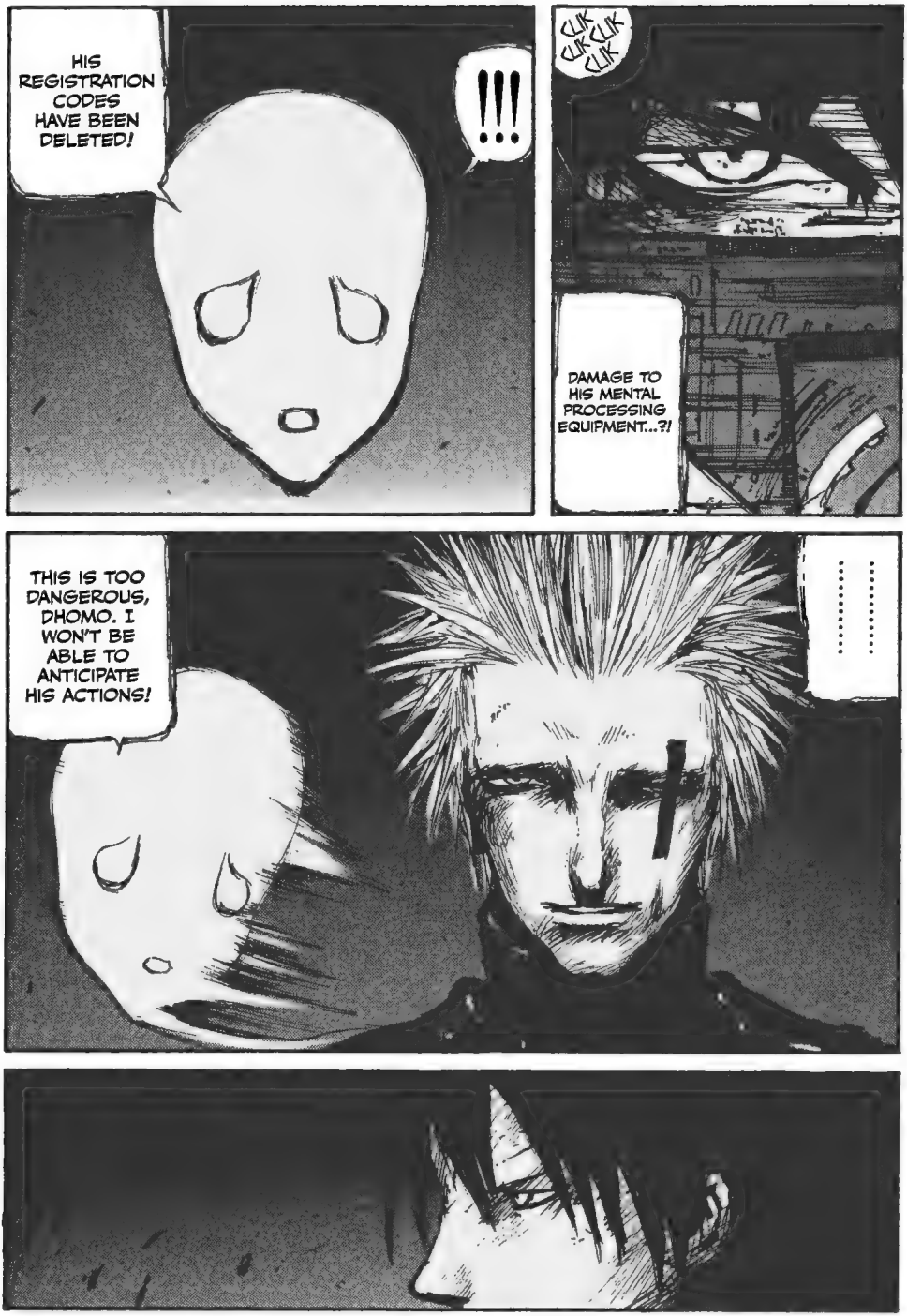


LOG.38 @ END

LOG.39 - Type 1 Critical Contingent Weapon


BUP BUP BUP BUP BUP
TICKATICKA TICKATICKA
VREE
KSHUNK

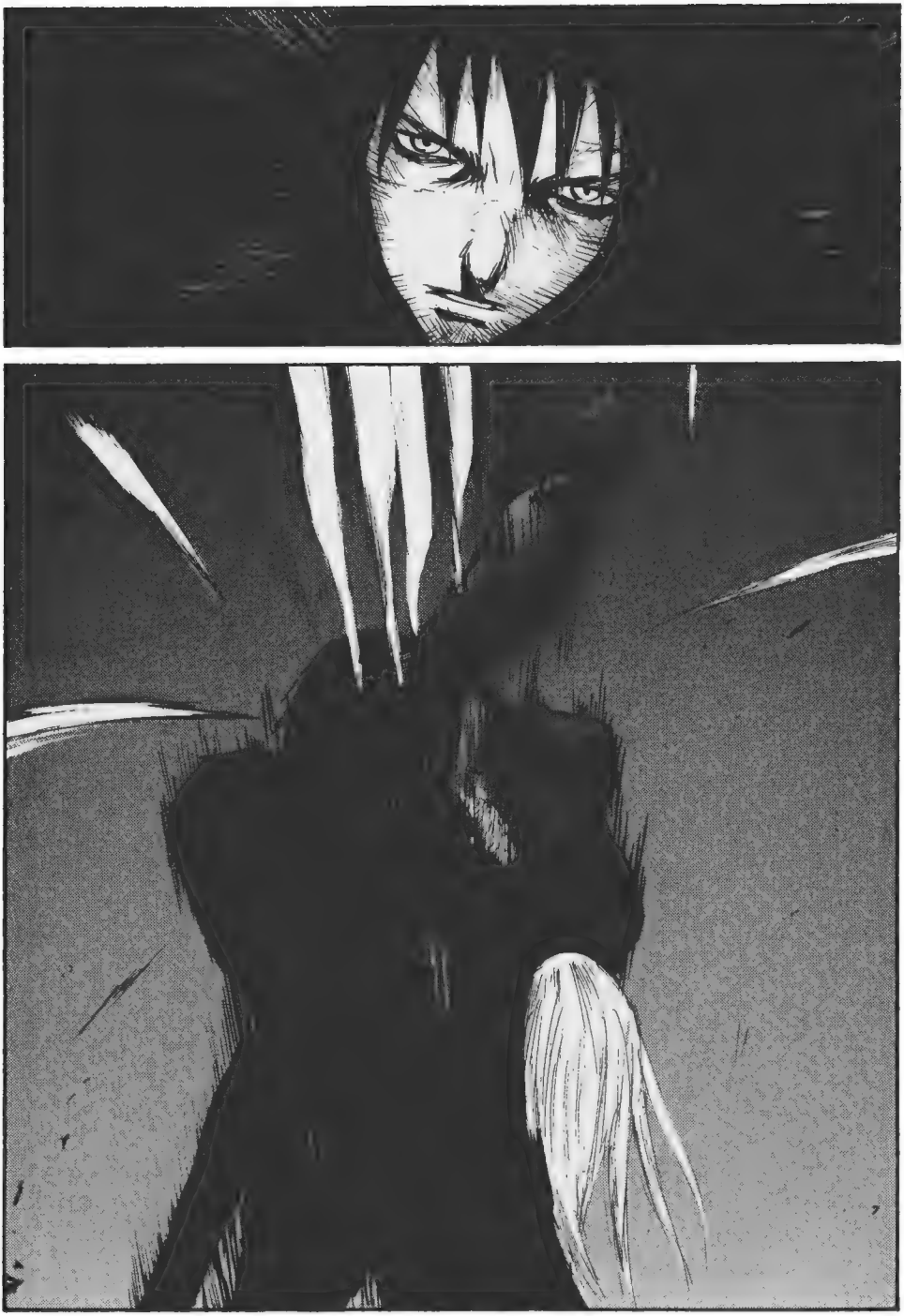
BDDDDDDDP
BEEEP
BEEEP
CLIK
CLIK CLIK
CLIK CLIK
CLIK
A GRAVITON BEAM EMITTER.
BLINK
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT. THAT'S A TYPE ONE CRITICAL CONTINGENT WEAPON.
THAT MEANS WE CAN ATTACK.
NO RESPONSE TO STANDARD CHANNELS.
HANG ON. HE'S NOT REFUSING A RETINAL SCAN.


HIS REGISTRATION CODES HAVE BEEN DELETED!
!!!
CLIK CLIK CLIK CLIK
DAMAGE TO HIS MENTAL PROCESSING EQUIPMENT...?!
THIS IS TOO DANGEROUS, DHOMO. I WON'T BE ABLE TO ANTICIPATE HIS ACTIONS!
.....

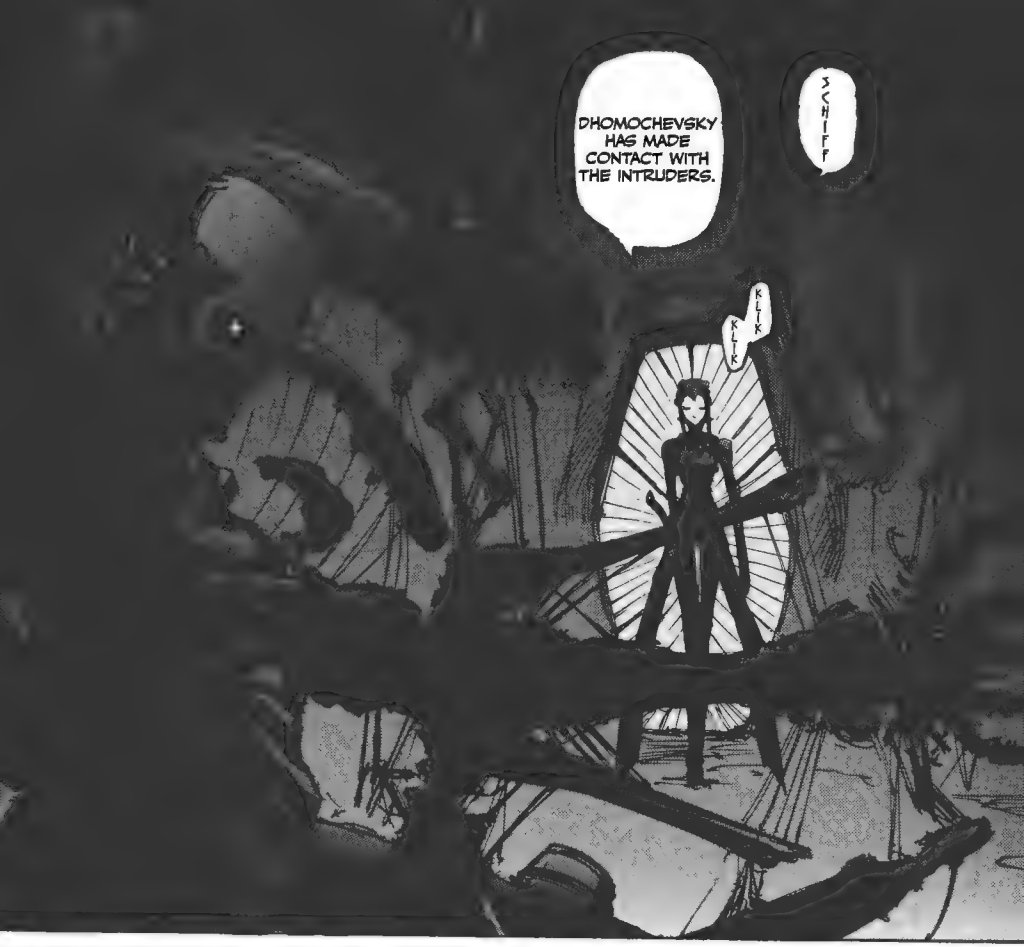
FOR AN INSTANT, MAYBE.
CAN YOU DEACTIVATE HIS WEAPON?
!!
GCHINK
VVMM
DO IT!

KNUNK
SHUNK
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM

BLAM



GSSHT
KLIK
KLIK
BSHMM


DHOMOCHEVSKY HAS MADE CONTACT WITH THE INTRUDERS.
SCHIFF
KLIK
KLIK

THEY COMMENCED FIGHTING IMMEDIATELY, AND NOW I CAN'T SEE ANYONE.

BLON IS SILENT, TOO.
I DON'T KNOW.
DOES THAT MEAN THE INTRUDERS *AREN'T* SAFEGUARDS?
THE SOONER WE DEAL WITH THIS, THE BETTER.
AGAIN, THE INTRUDERS' WEAPONS HAVE LEFT A STRAIGHT LINE OF DESTRUCTION 70 KILOMETERS LONG.

ゴゥゥ

GOUUU

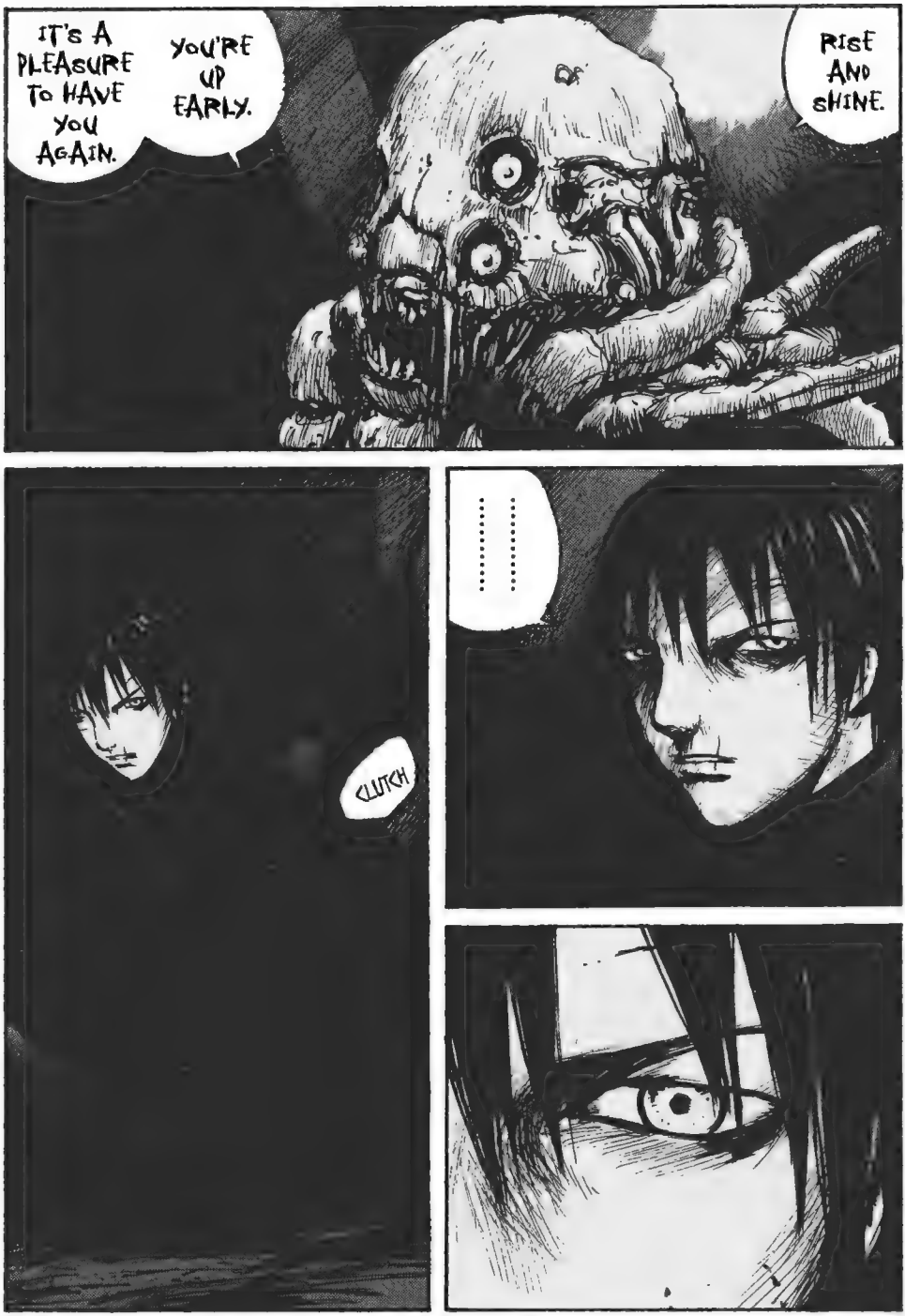
VMMMM

VMMMM

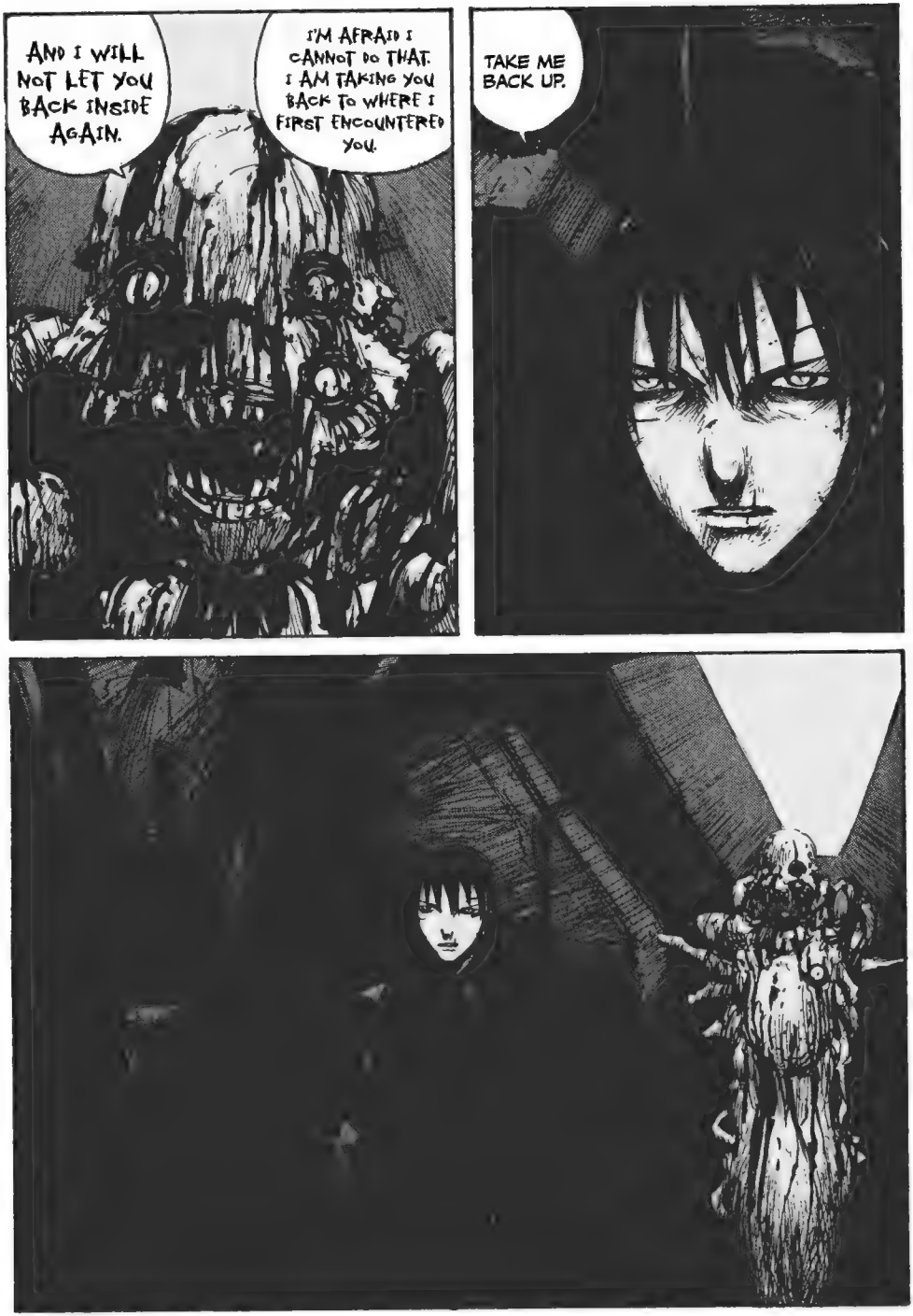
ゴゥゥ

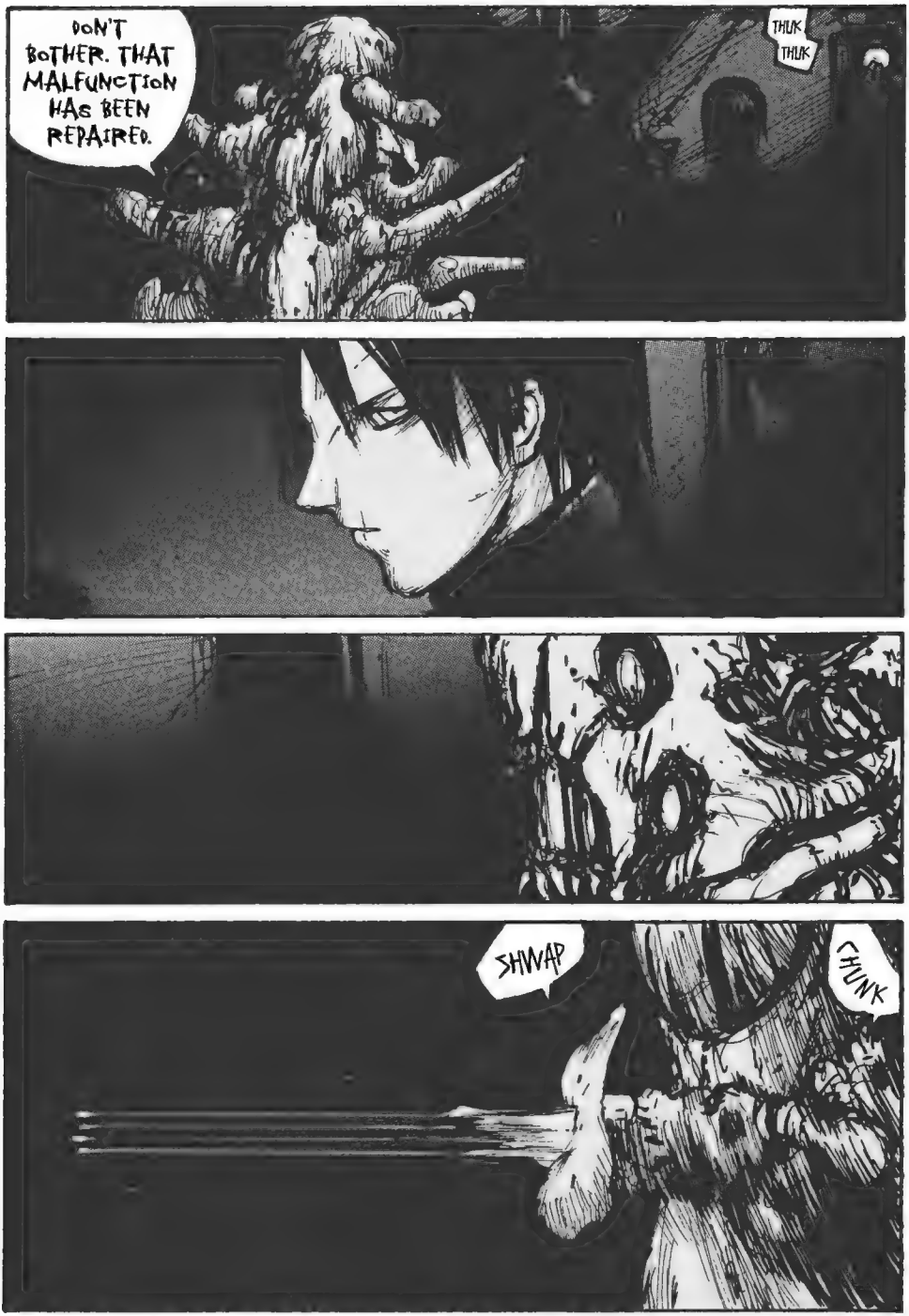
ゴゥゥ

MMMM
ウウ
VMMMM
ゴウウ

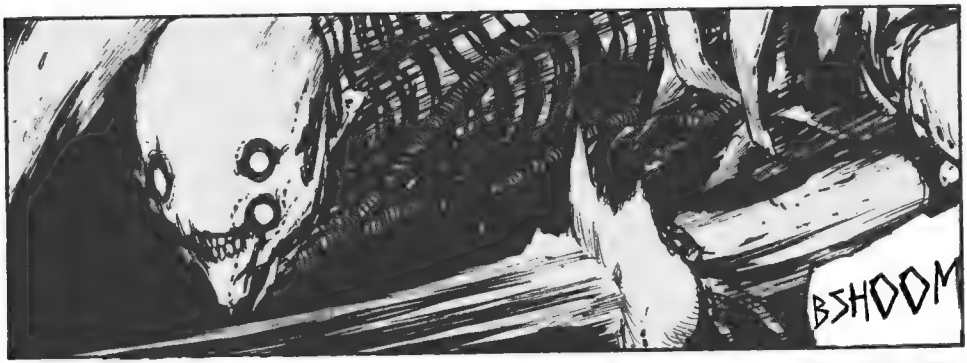

RISE AND SHINE.
YOU'RE UP EARLY.
IT'S A PLEASURE TO HAVE YOU AGAIN.
.....
CLUTCH

WHERE?
APPROXIMATELY 17 HOURS. IT WILL BE ANOTHER 800 HOURS UNTIL WE GET THERE.
HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN HERE?
IN OTHER WORDS, ESCORTING YOU BACK TO THE PLACE I FIRST LET YOU ON.
I AM TAKING YOU OUTSIDE OF THE...UNOFFICIAL MEGA-STRUCTURE.

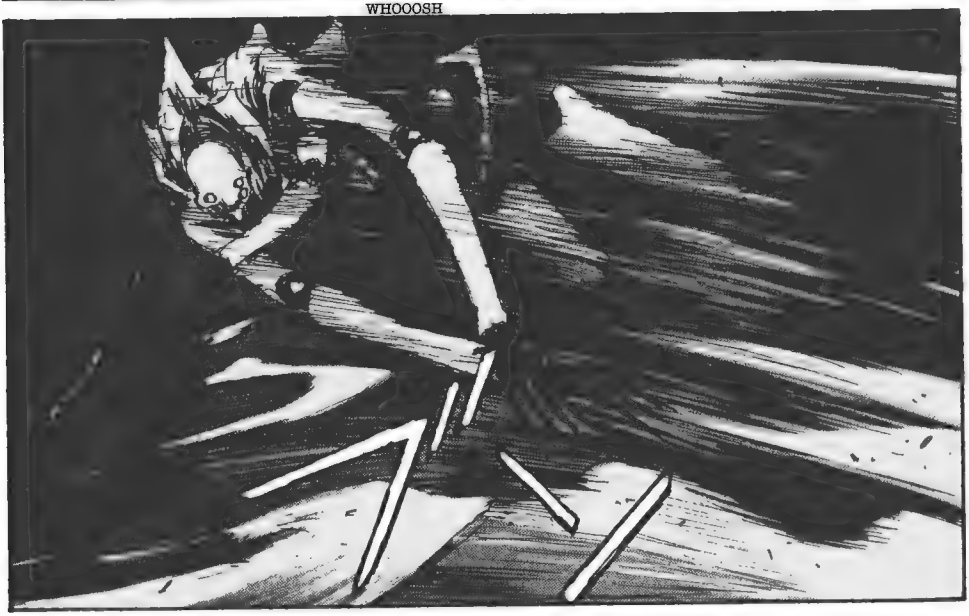

AND I WILL NOT LET YOU BACK INSIDE AGAIN.
I'M AFRAID I CANNOT DO THAT. I AM TAKING YOU BACK TO WHERE I FIRST ENCOUNTERED YOU.
TAKE ME BACK UP.


DON'T BOTHER. THAT MALFUNCTION HAS BEEN REPAIRED.
THUK THUK
SHWAP
CHUNK

CL-
CL-
CL-
CLACK
GWERRK



WHOOOSH



DOGA
WHORRRR

SPRTCH
LURCH

BOOOOM

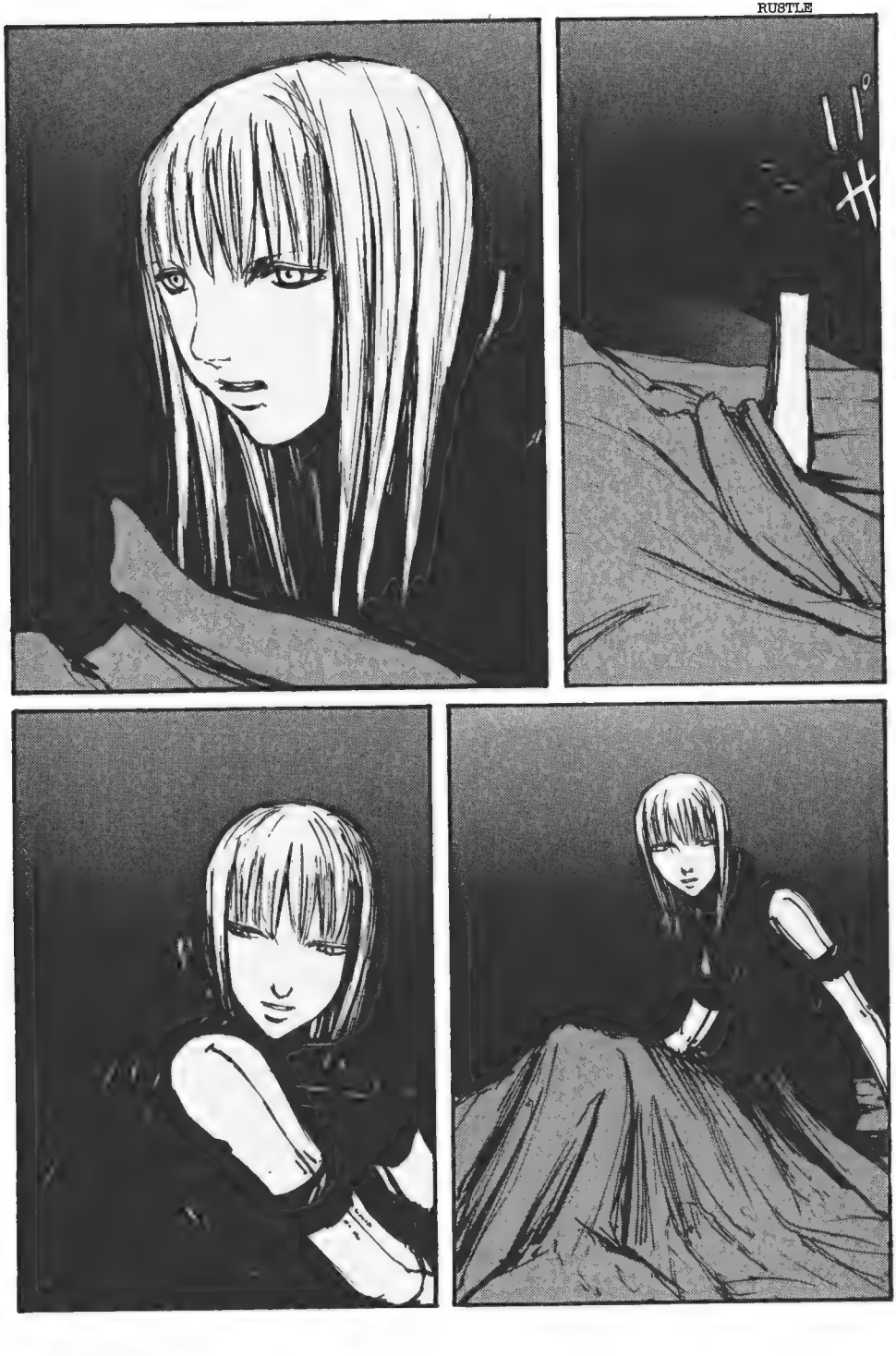
CRUNCH

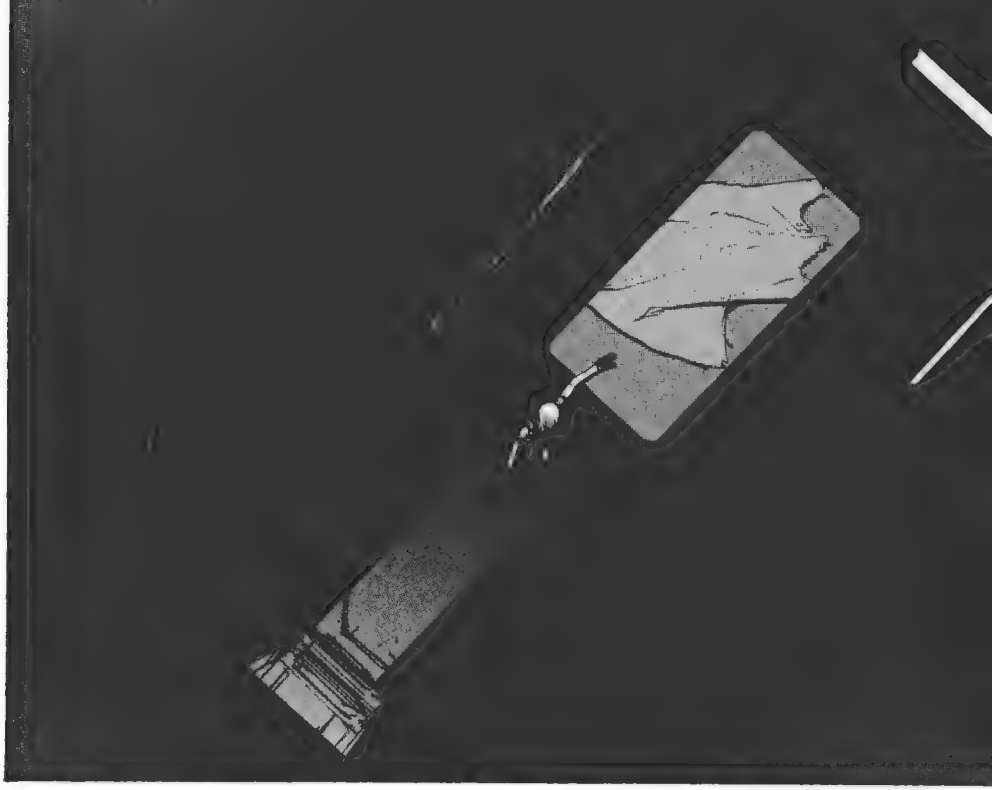
CRUNCH

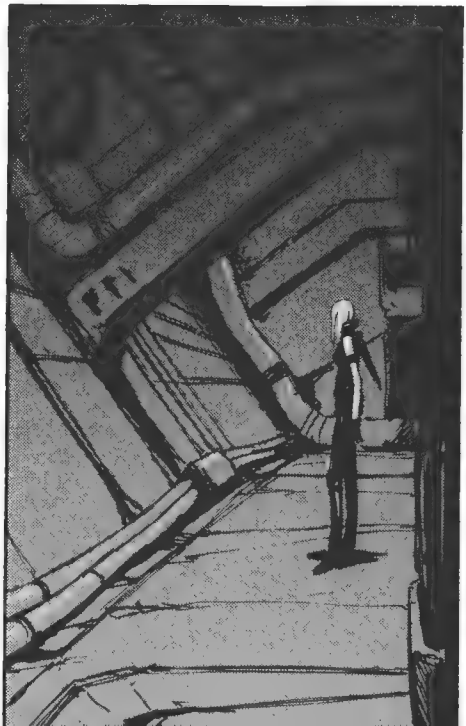
OMMM

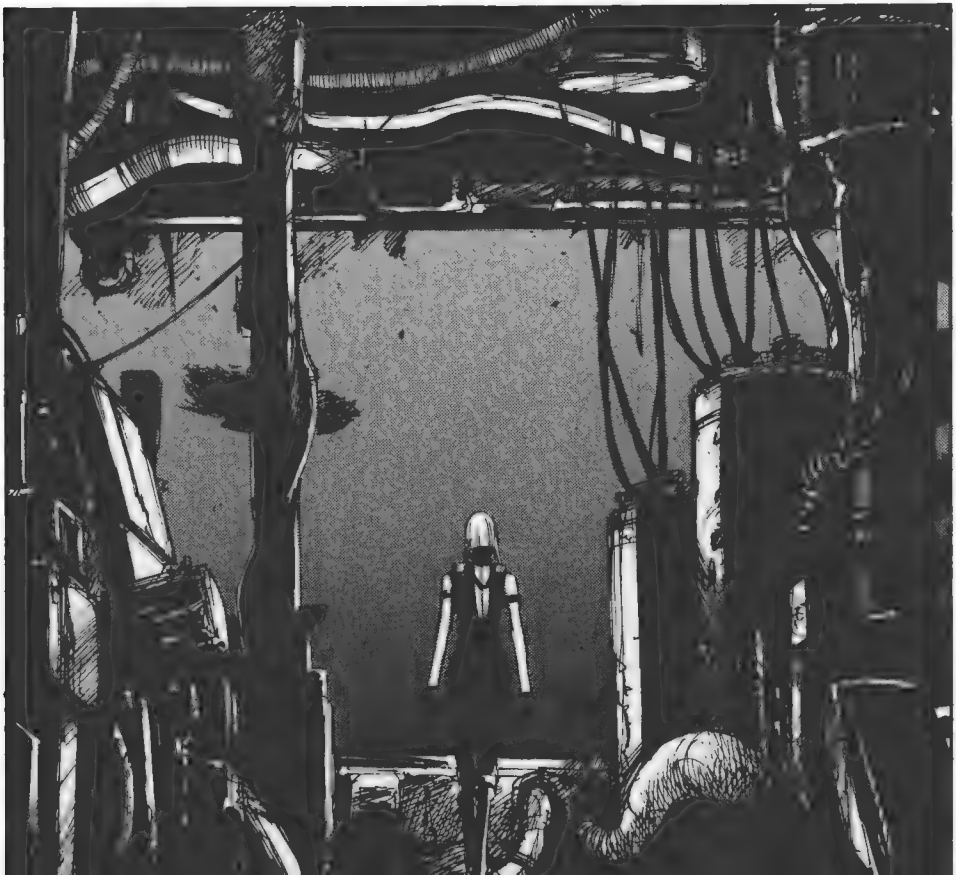
LOG.39 @ END

LOG.40 = Seizure

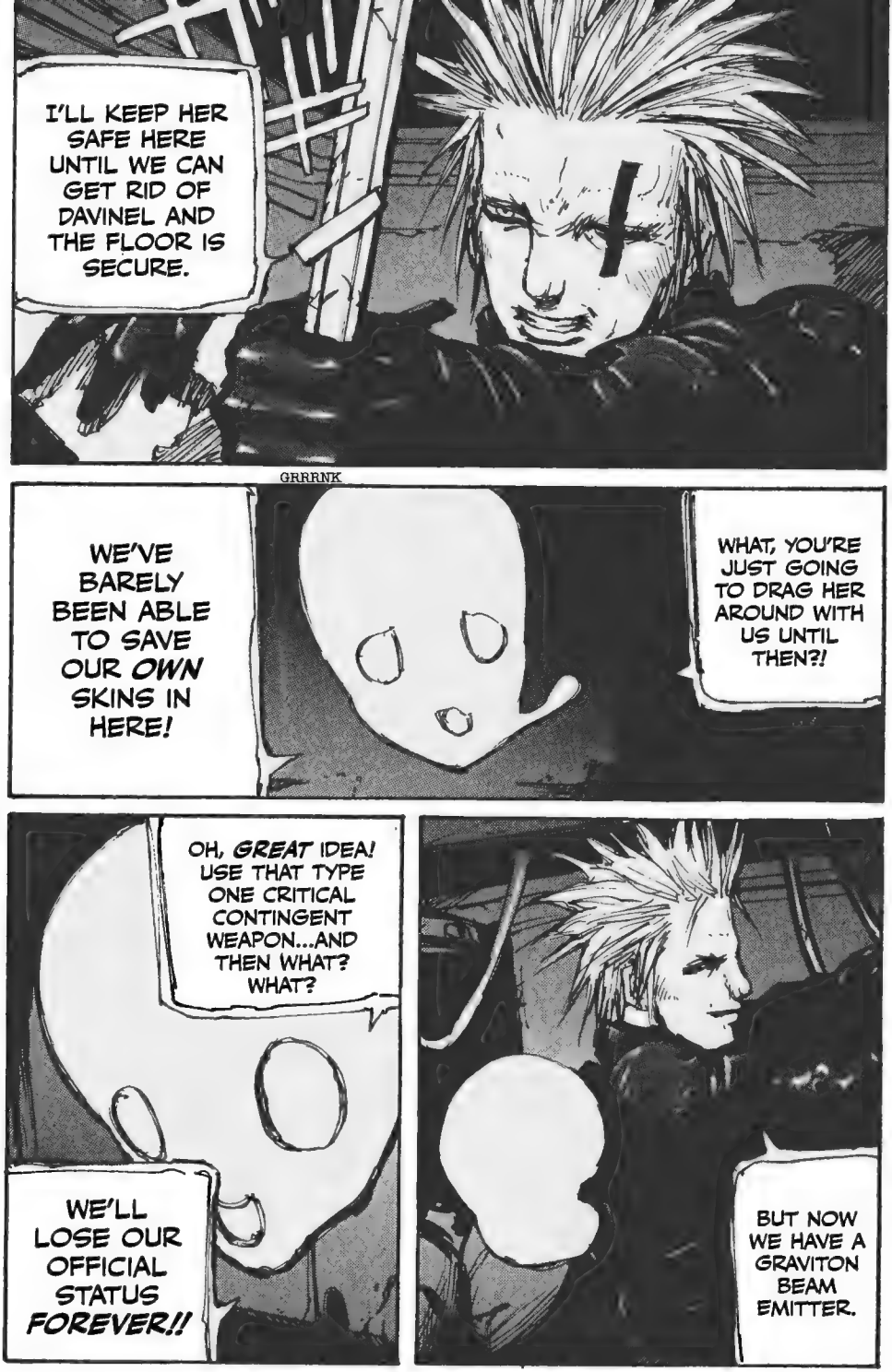

RUSTLE

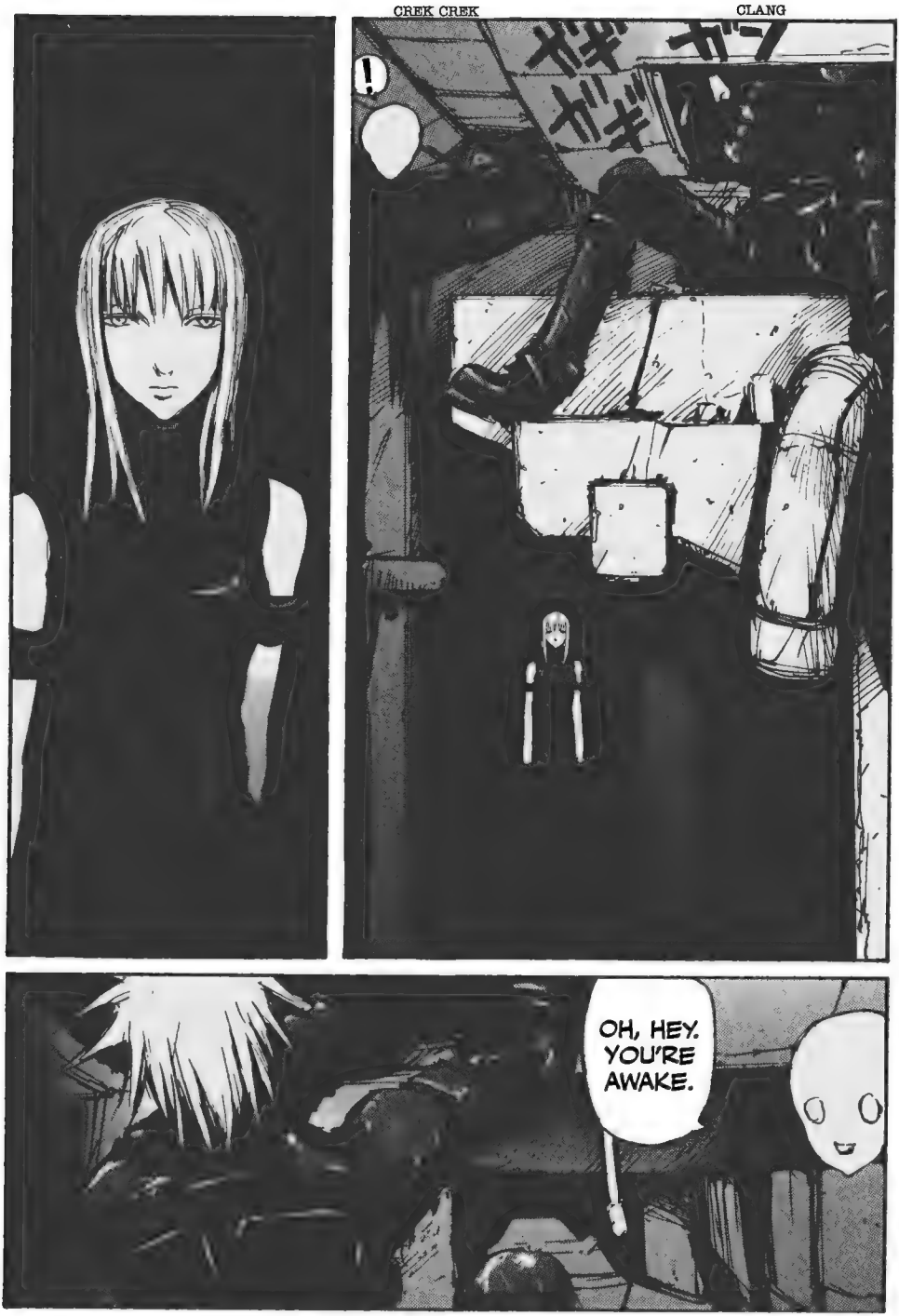






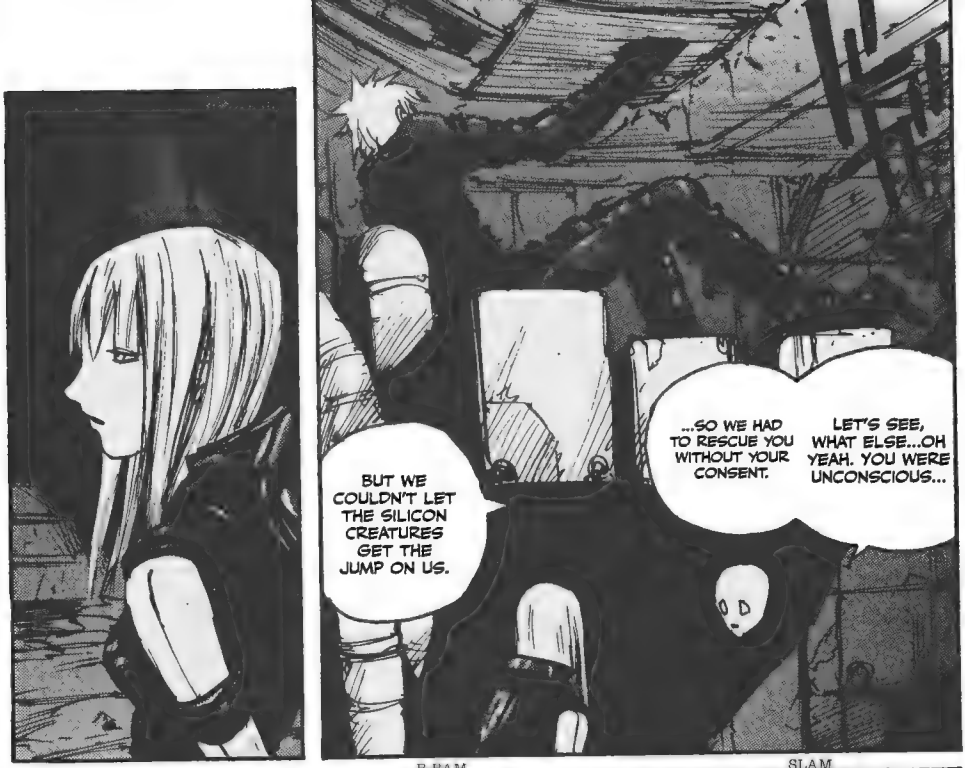
KNOW WHAT, DHOMO?
I THINK WE SHOULD HAVE JUST KEPT THE CAPSULE AND TAKEN THE WOMAN BACK OUTSIDE.
CAN'T DO THAT. SHE'S HUMAN. THE SILICON CREATURES'LL GET HER OUT THERE.
CRUNK CRUNK CRUNK


I'LL KEEP HER SAFE HERE UNTIL WE CAN GET RID OF DAVINEL AND THE FLOOR IS SECURE.
GRRRNK
WE'VE BARELY BEEN ABLE TO SAVE OUR *OWN* SKINS IN HERE!
WHAT, YOU'RE JUST GOING TO DRAG HER AROUND WITH US UNTIL THEN?!
OH, *GREAT* IDEA! USE THAT TYPE ONE CRITICAL CONTINGENT WEAPON...AND THEN WHAT? WHAT?
WE'LL LOSE OUR OFFICIAL STATUS *FOREVER!!*
BUT NOW WE HAVE A GRAVITON BEAM EMITTER.

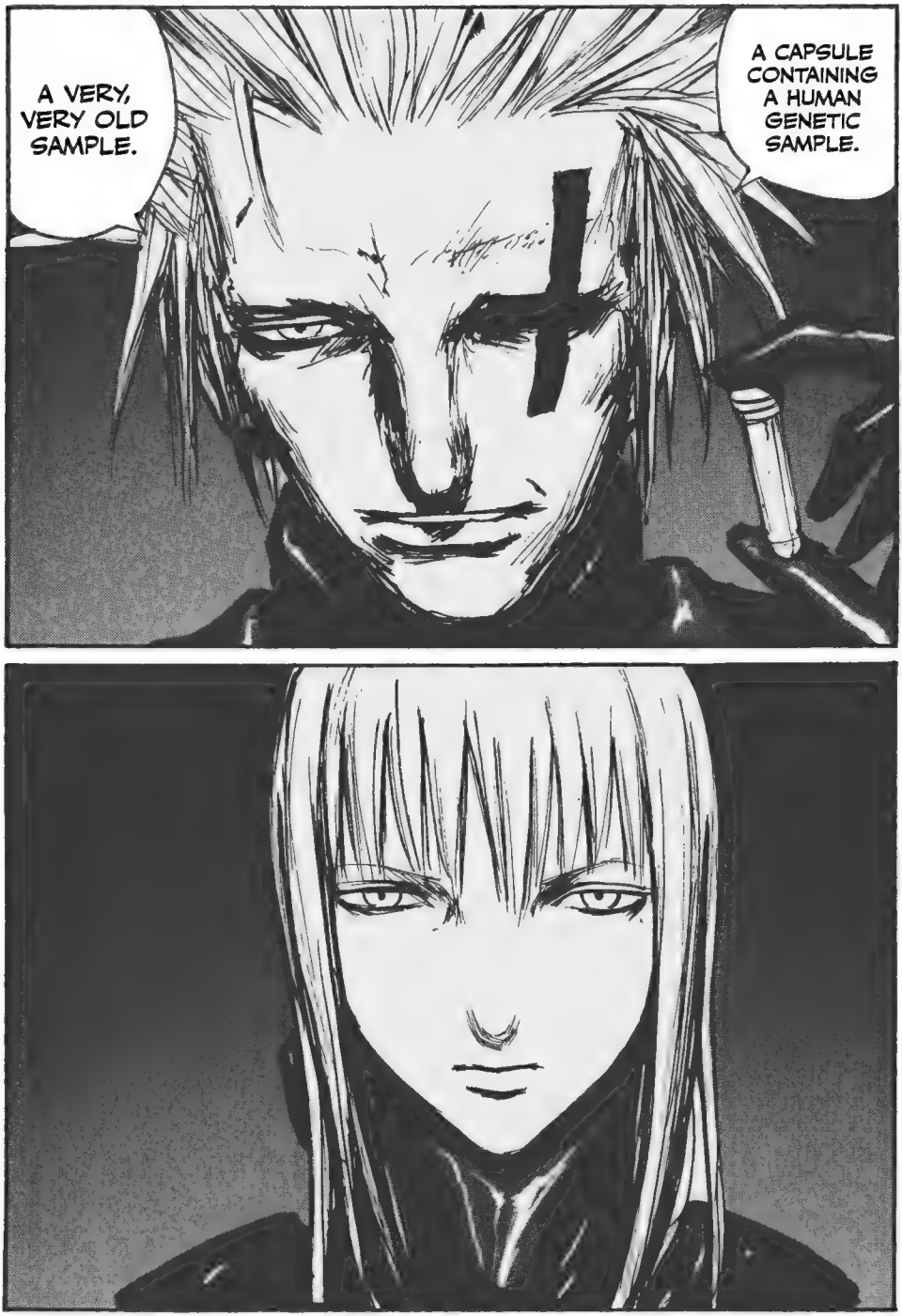

CREK CREK
CLANG
!
OH, HEY. YOU'RE AWAKE.

WHO ARE YOU?
CRANK CRANK

SAFE-GUARDS!!!
US? WE'RE TEMPORARY SAFEGUARDS.
.....
NET TERMINAL GENES OR NOT, ALL HUMANS ON THIS FLOOR ARE UNDER OUR PROTECTION. THAT'S OUR JOB.
OH! DON'T WORRY.
NOT THAT THERE'S ANYONE BUT YOU.

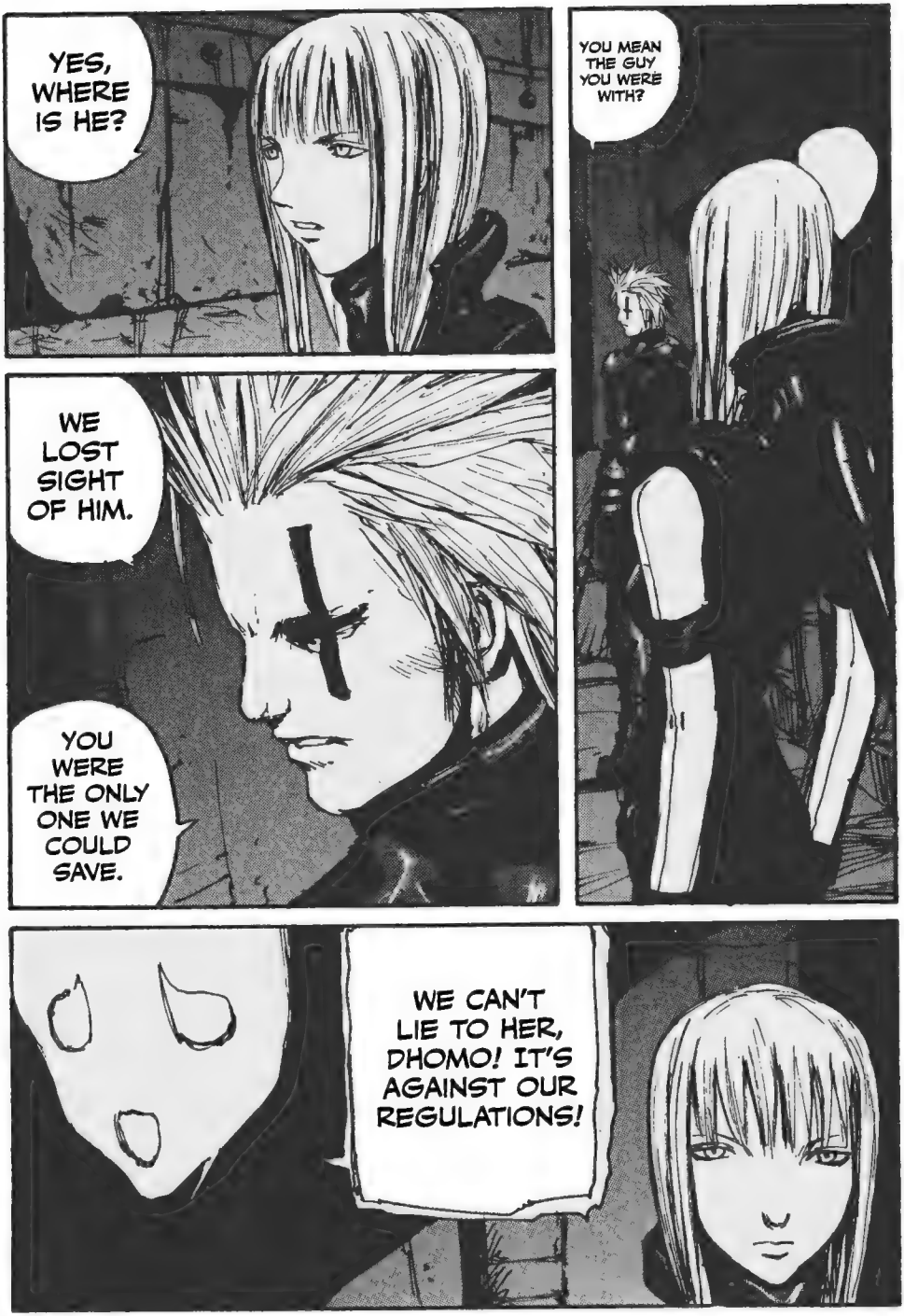

LET'S SEE, WHAT ELSE...OH YEAH. YOU WERE UNCONSCIOUS...
...SO WE HAD TO RESCUE YOU WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT.
BUT WE COULDN'T LET THE SILICON CREATURES GET THE JUMP ON US.

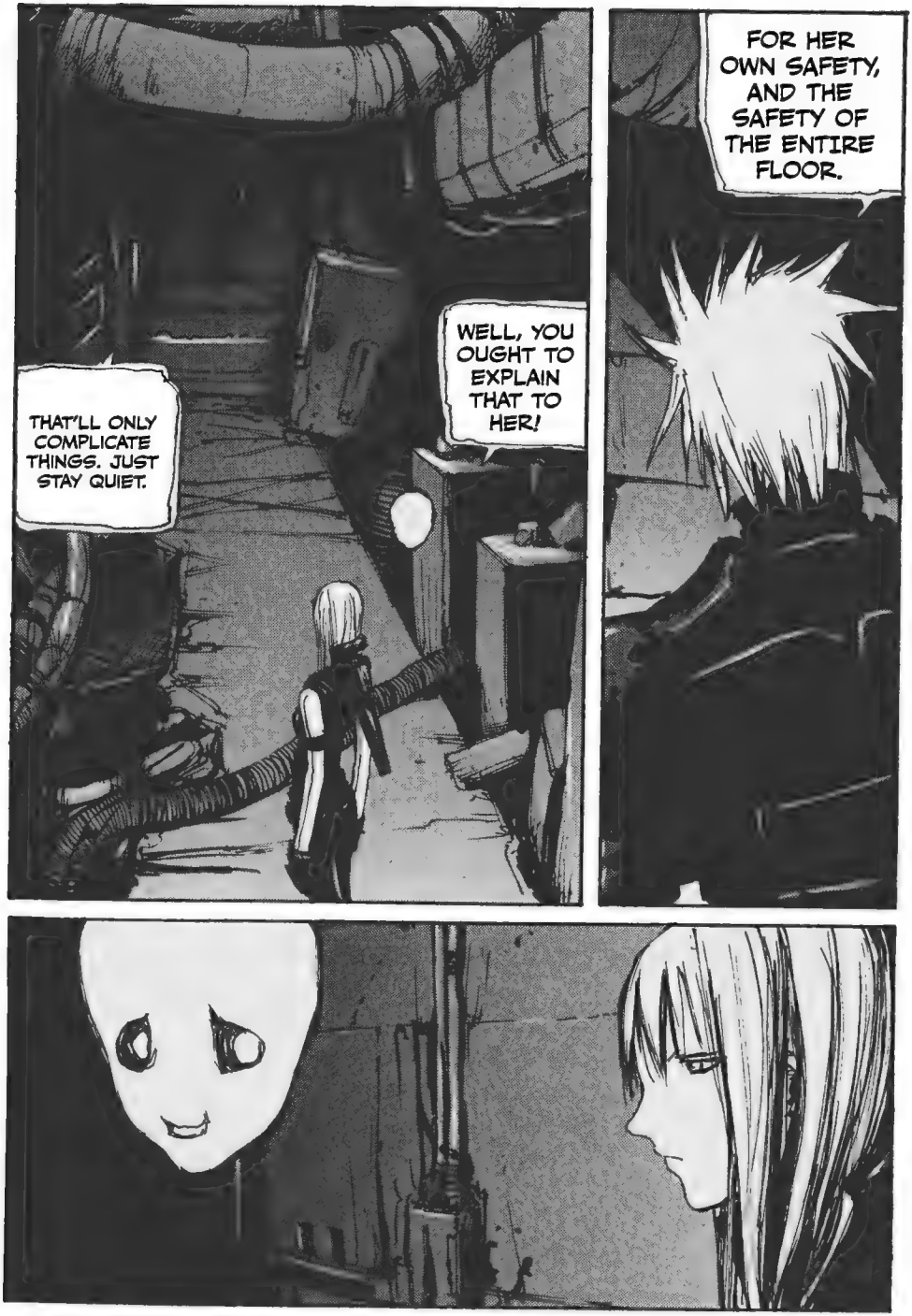
B BAM
SLAM
WE TOOK A LOOK AT YOUR STUFF.

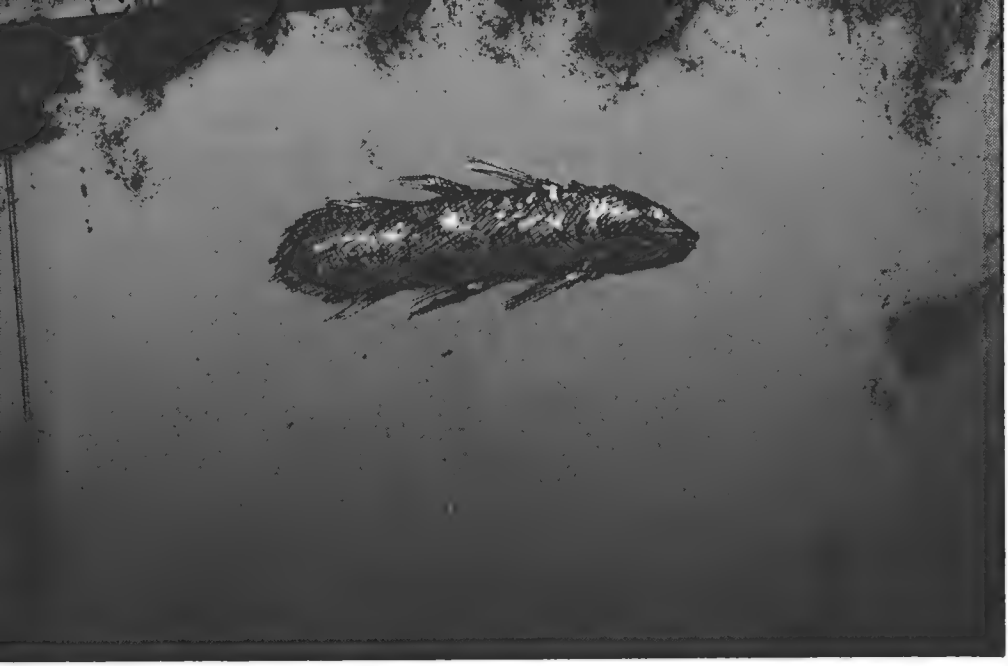

A VERY, VERY OLD SAMPLE.
A CAPSULE CONTAINING A HUMAN GENETIC SAMPLE.

I AM GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR SAVING MY LIFE.
BUT I MUST DEMAND TO HAVE THAT BACK.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THIS?
WHY DID YOU COME TO THIS FLOOR?
NOT GONNA HAPPEN. I'M HOLDING ON TO THIS.
SQUEEZE
KEEP AN EYE ON HER.

CLANK CLANK
WHERE'S KILLY?
DON'T TELL HER ANYTHING, ICO.
YOU WERE BEING ATTACKED BY THE SILICON CREATURES.
WAIT. WHAT WAS HAPPENING WHEN YOU SAVED ME?


YES, WHERE IS HE?
YOU MEAN THE GUY YOU WERE WITH?
WE LOST SIGHT OF HIM.
YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE WE COULD SAVE.
WE CAN'T LIE TO HER, DHOMO! IT'S AGAINST OUR REGULATIONS!


FOR HER OWN SAFETY, AND THE SAFETY OF THE ENTIRE FLOOR.
WELL, YOU OUGHT TO EXPLAIN THAT TO HER!
THAT'LL ONLY COMPLICATE THINGS. JUST STAY QUIET.



VVVMM
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!
D-D-DHO-MO...

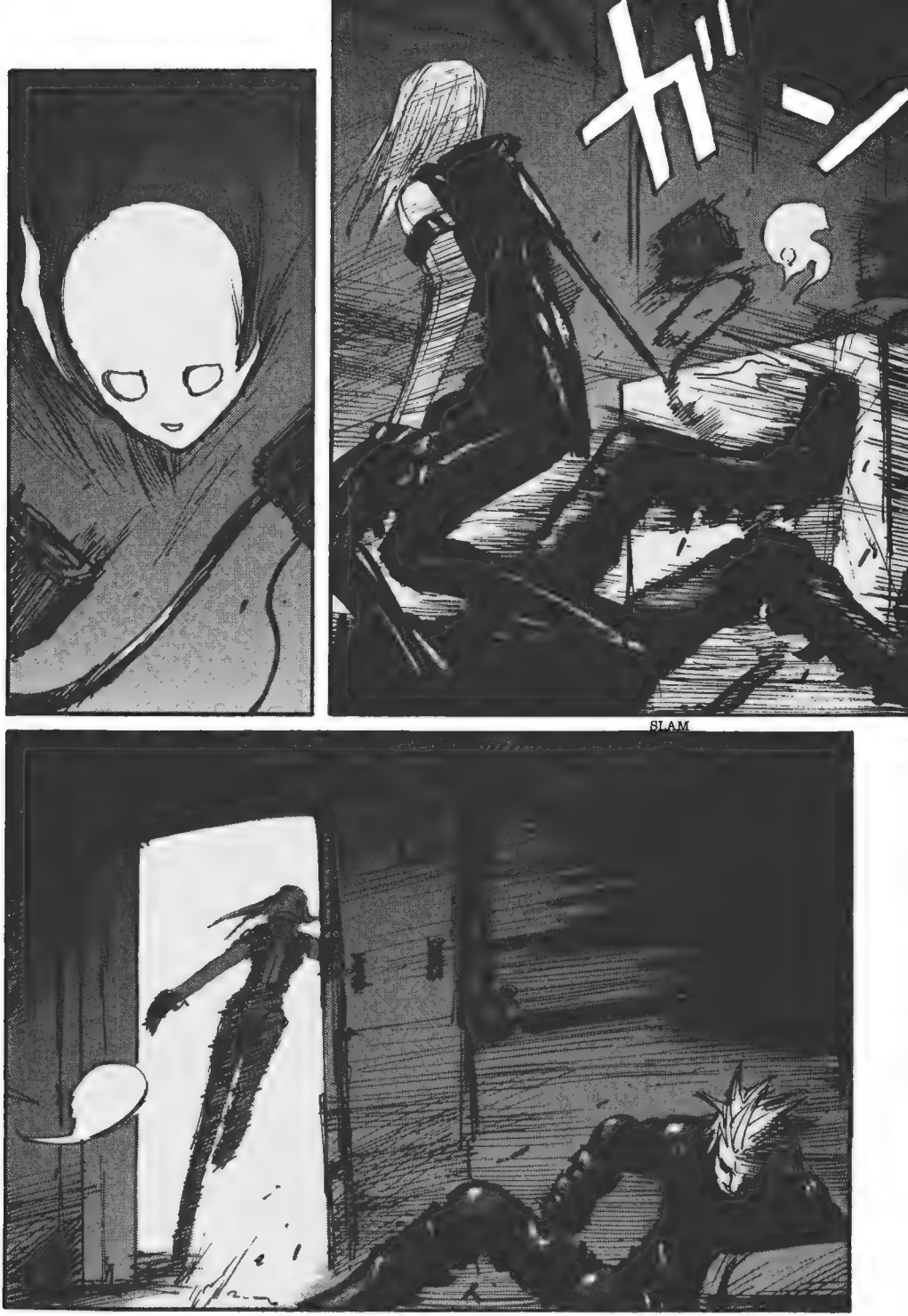
VVVT

THUD
Z
Z
ZAP
WHACK

I HEARD WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED TO KILLY.
YOU... TOLD... HER...?
AGH... NGH...
BZZZT
VVMMM
WE HAVE A DUTY...TO GIVE... TRUTHFUL... INFORMATION.

AND I COULD HEAR ALL OF YOUR RADIO COMMUNICATION.
I'LL BE TAKING BACK THE GRAVITON BEAM EMITTER AND MY CAPSULE.
.....
CLKK
!!

SNATCH
ZZZAP
YEAGH!!!


ガン
SLAM

DAMMIT! WHERE THE HELL DID SHE GET A WEAPON LIKE THAT?!
IT MUST HAVE BEEN BUILT INTO THE SUIT.
WOBBLE
IT WAS THE CLOSEST THING WE HAD TO WHAT SHE WAS WEARING WHEN WE FOUND HER...
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO PUT IT ON HER AFTER THE TREATMENT, YOU BLOODY IDIOT!!!

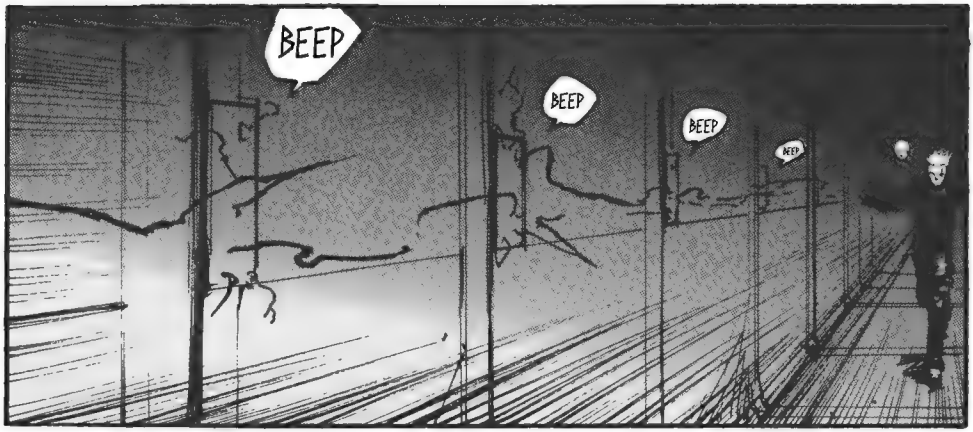
AND WE CAN ALSO THANK THE SUIT FOR HELPING HER OVERHEAR OUR RADIO LINE, DIPSHIT!
AND ONE WOULDN'T ASSUME THAT A NORMAL HUMAN COULD MAKE FULL USE OF A GENUINE SAFEGUARD SUIT.
WHERE DID SHE GO?!
THINGS ARE GOING TO BE VERY BAD IF SHE GETS OUTSIDE.

CLANK

LOG.40 @ END

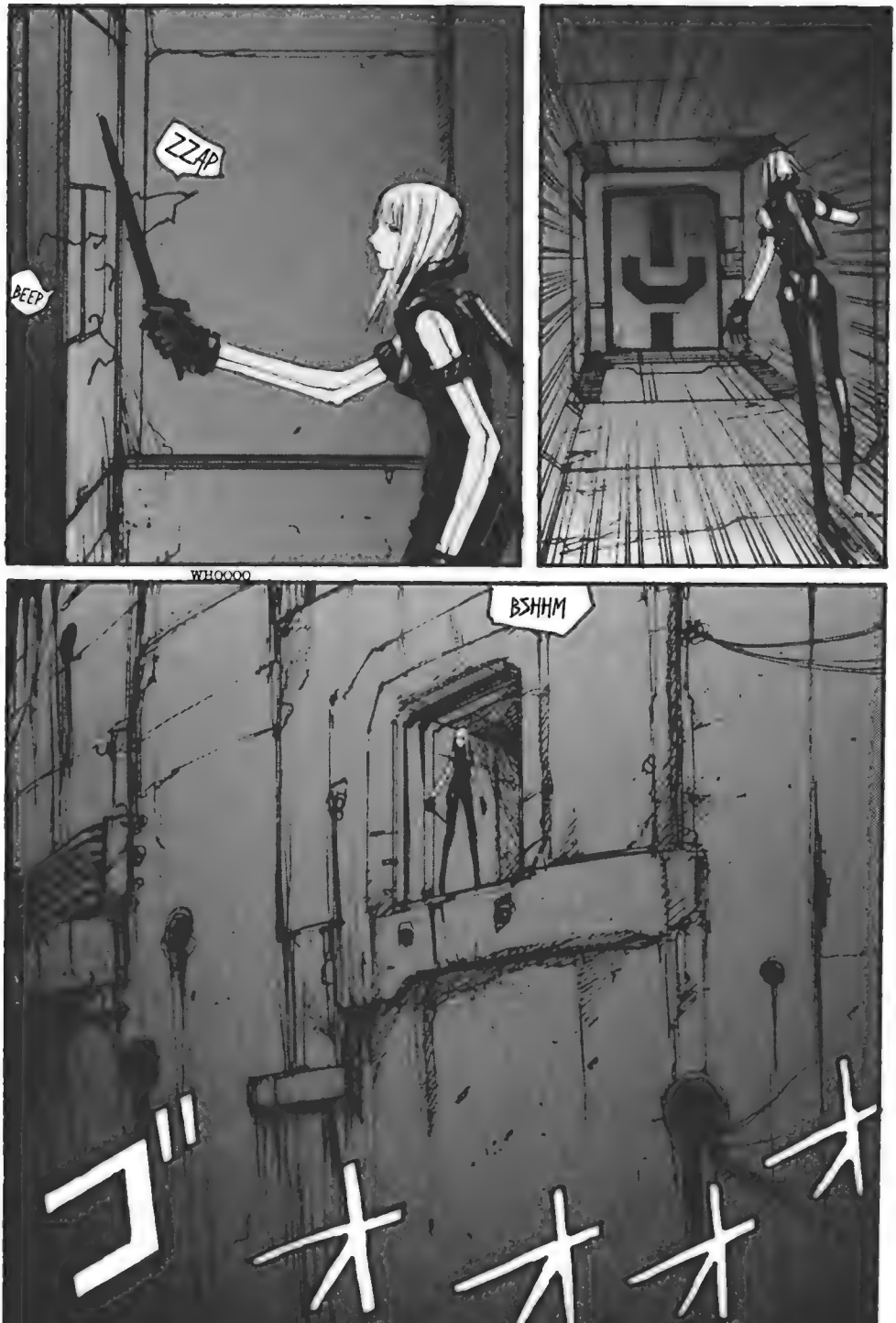
LOG.41 - Electron Space Barrier

HALT!
PWAK



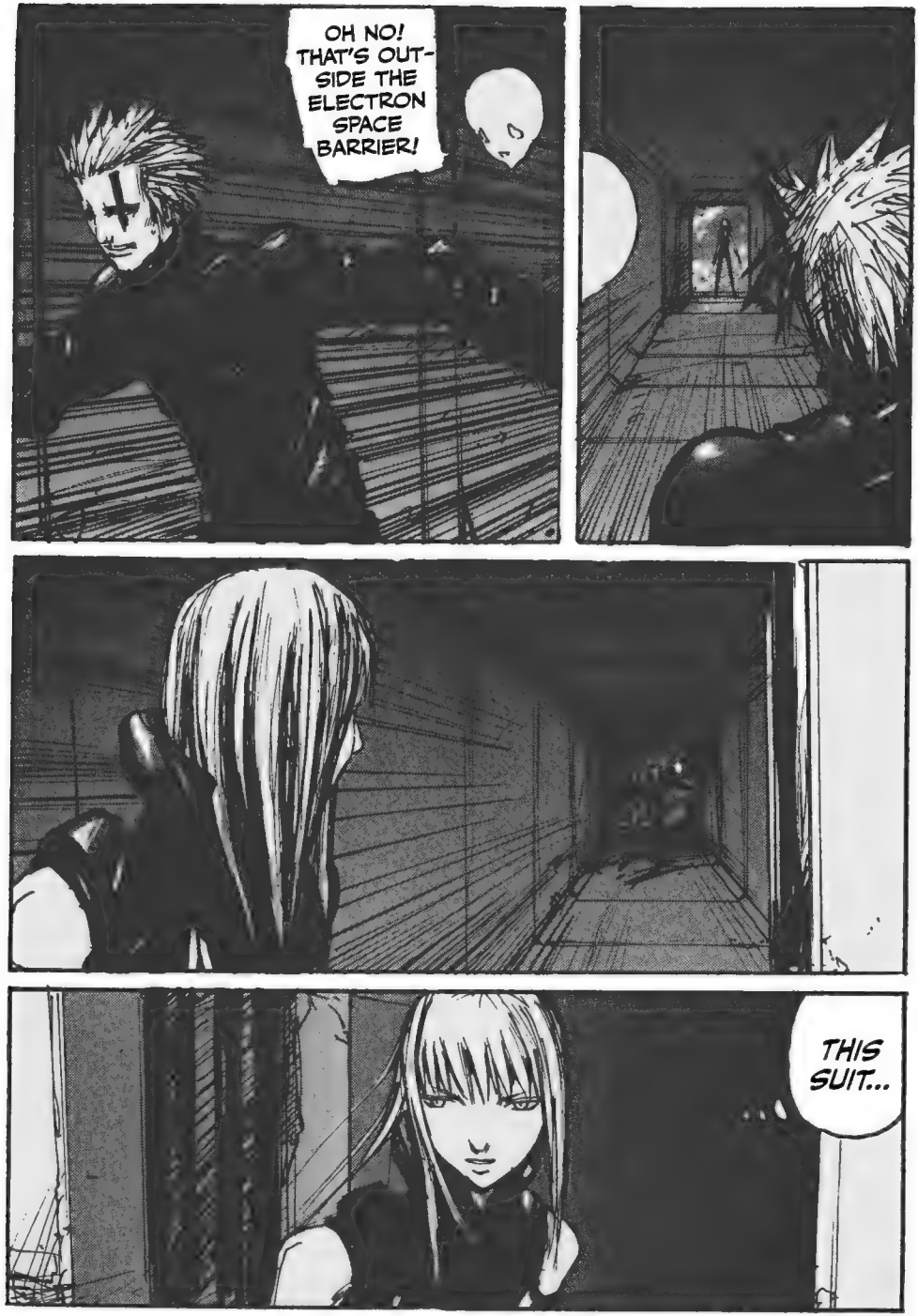
GSHUNK GSHUNK GSHUNK

THUMP
ゴーン
OPEN IT UP, ICO!
HANG ON.
OH DANG, THIS IS GONNA TAKE A WHILE!
CRUNCH
ガガガ

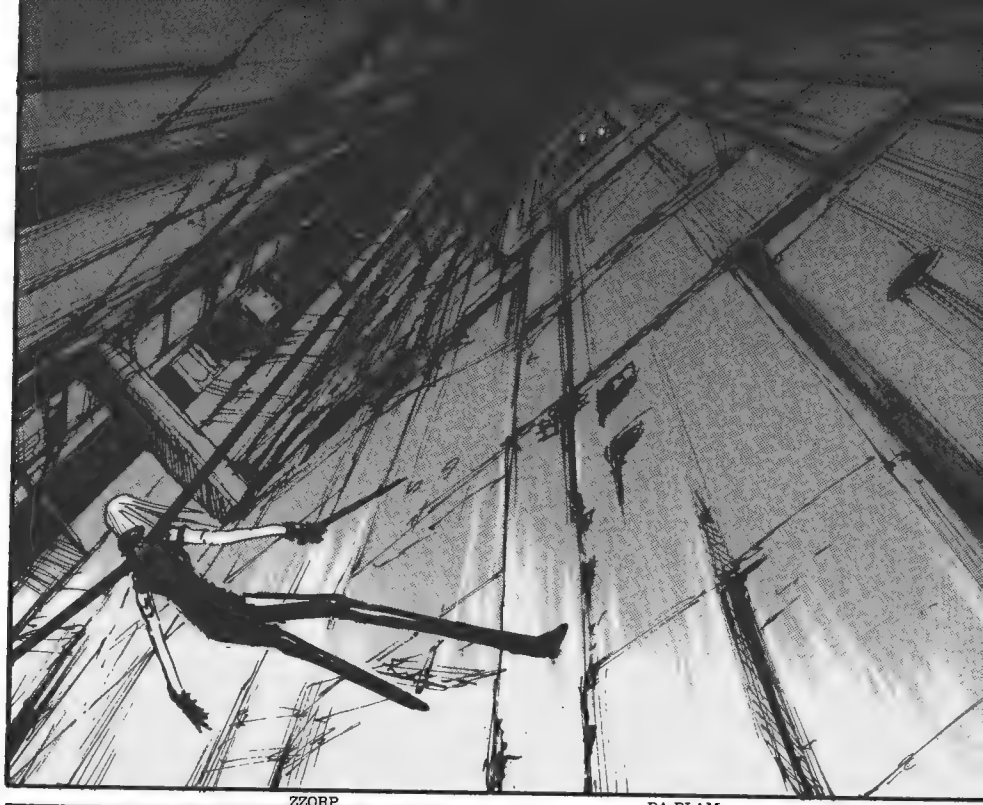

ZZAP
BEEP
WHOOOO
BSHHM
ゴオオオオ

OOOOO

CRAAASH


OH NO! THAT'S OUTSIDE THE ELECTRON SPACE BARRIER!
THIS SUIT...

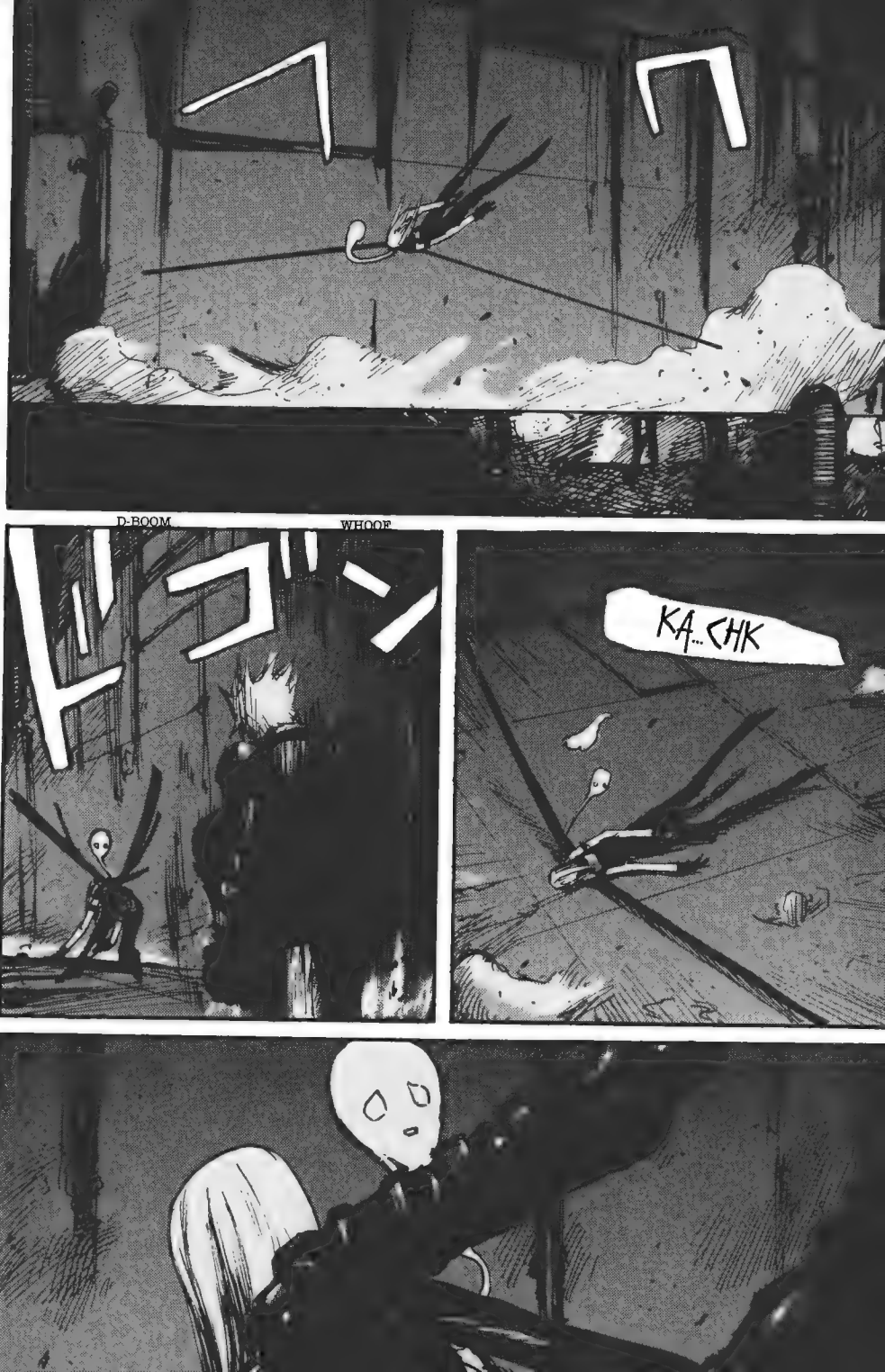
WAIT!
CLANK
CLANK



ZZORP

BA-BLAM

ICO, TAKE CONTROL OF HER SUIT!
DOOM
JUMP


D-BOOM
WHOOF
KA... CHK

SLAM
KLICK
D
DHOMO!
I NEED TO MAKE THIS QUICK, SO I'LL USE THE WIRELESS CHANNEL!

YOU CAN EVEN HAVE THE GUN AND CAPSULE BACK, NO QUESTIONS ASKED.
YOU WANT THIS KILLY GUY? FINE! I CAN TAKE HIM TO YOU, USING A COMPLETELY SAFE ROUTE!
BUT I DON'T EVER WANT TO SEE YOU BACK HERE AGAIN.
THE LAST THING I NEED IS FOR THE SILICON CREATURES TO GET THEIR HANDS ON HUMAN GENETIC SAMPLES.
WHAT?!
DHOMO!

I CAN SMELL PCELL'S ATTENTION.
SHE'S FOUND US.
.....
WHAT?

THEY'RE USING THE CONVERSION TOWERS! IT'S GOING TO BE EXTERMINATORS! 24, 25, 26...THIS IS BAD!
VM VM VM VM VM VM VM

ゴゴゴ
RUMBLE

GZRRCH!

SHWRLLL

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? COME WITH US.
ICO, TAKE HER AND GET AS FAR AWAY AS YOU CAN.
KCHUNK

CLINK
CLINK
CLINK
NO. I'M GOING TO STAY HERE AND FIGHT THEM OFF.

V-VMM
GO!
KCHAKK
BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM

I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU SOMETHING.
DON'T TALK TO ME NOW. IT TAKES A LOT OF MY CHANNELS TO OPERATE YOUR SUIT.
WHY ARE THE SILICON CREATURES COLLECTING HUMAN DNA?

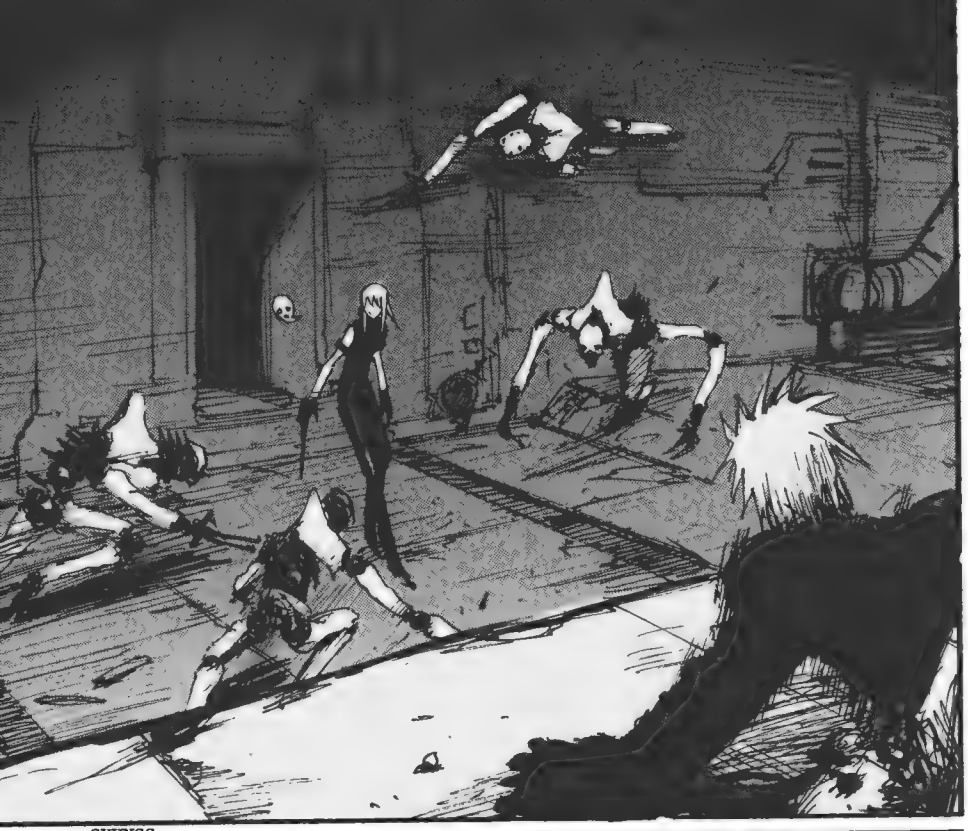
DAVINEL'S TRYING TO CONNECT TO THE NETSPHERE THROUGH THE REPOSITORY.

BLAM

THWUMP

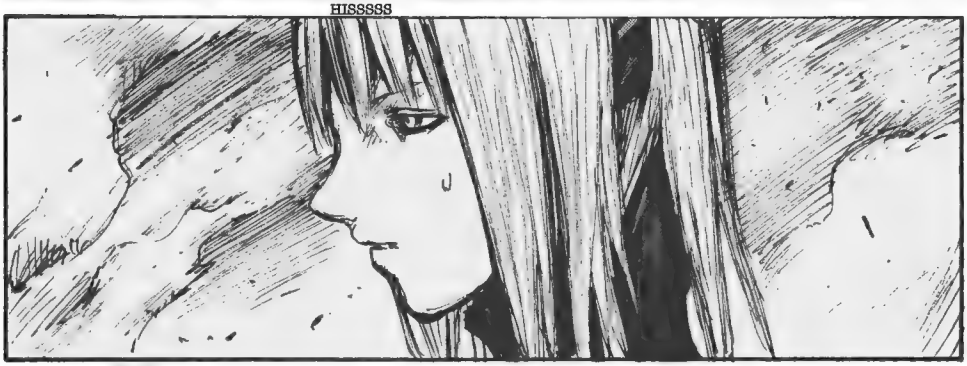
CRUNCH

CHLUNK



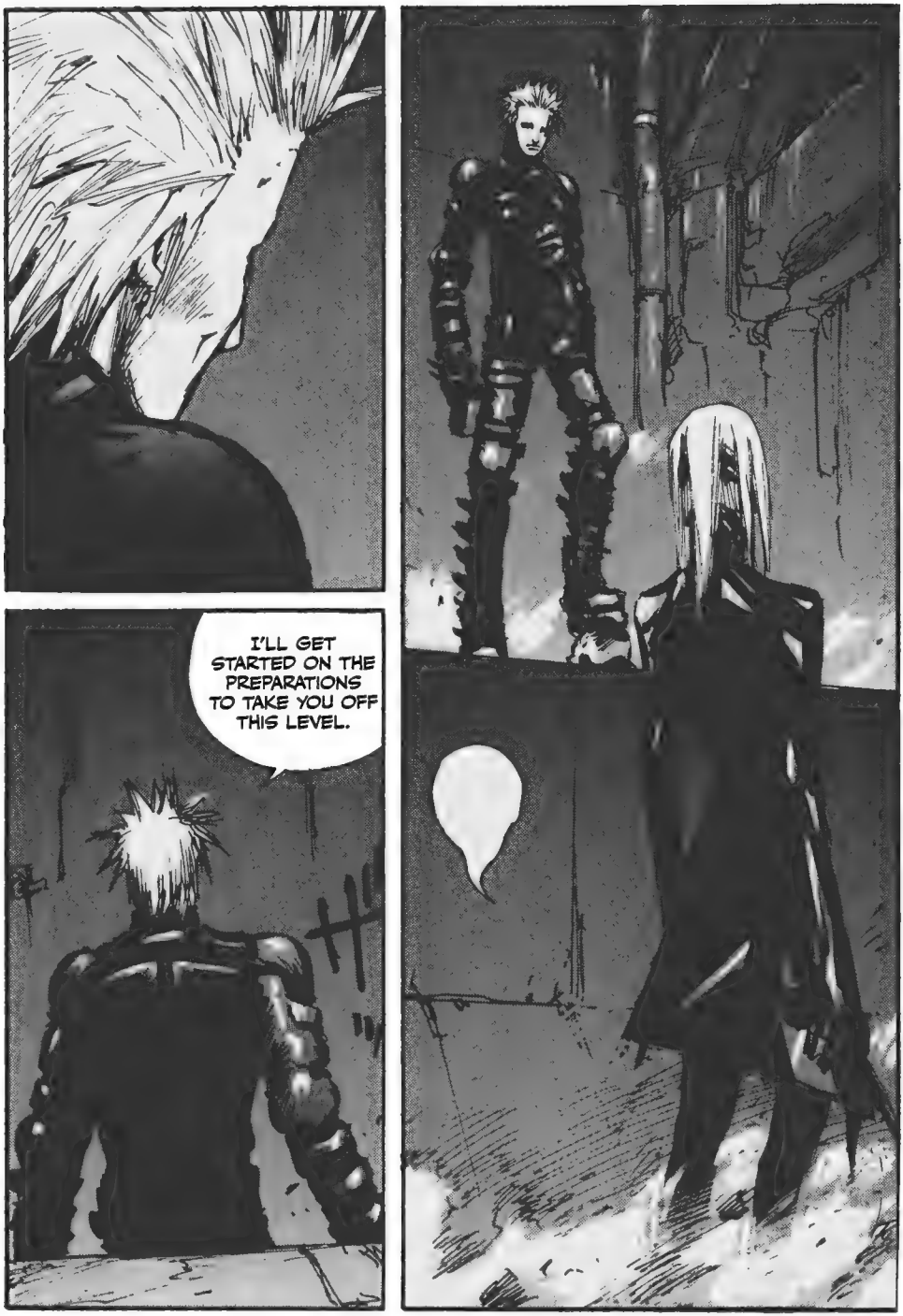
GYUNGG

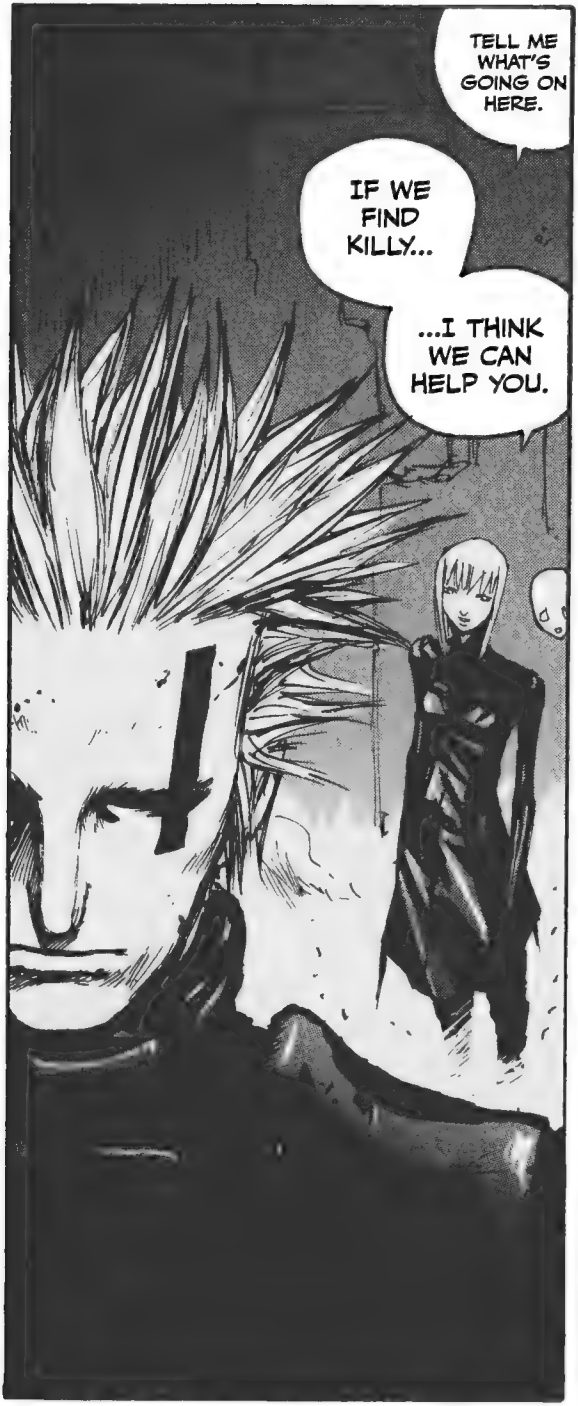
HISSSSS

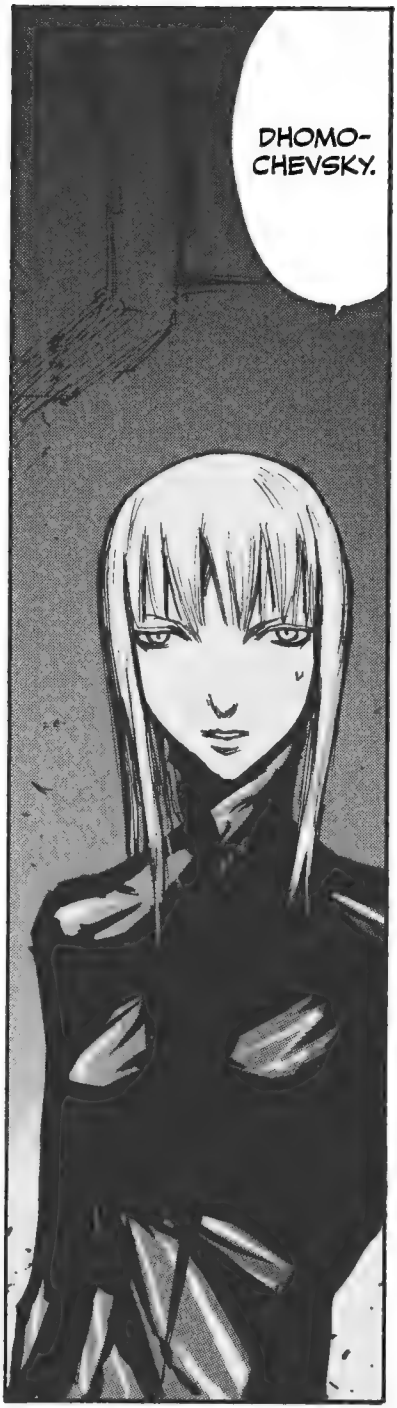


BLAM

GLERCH

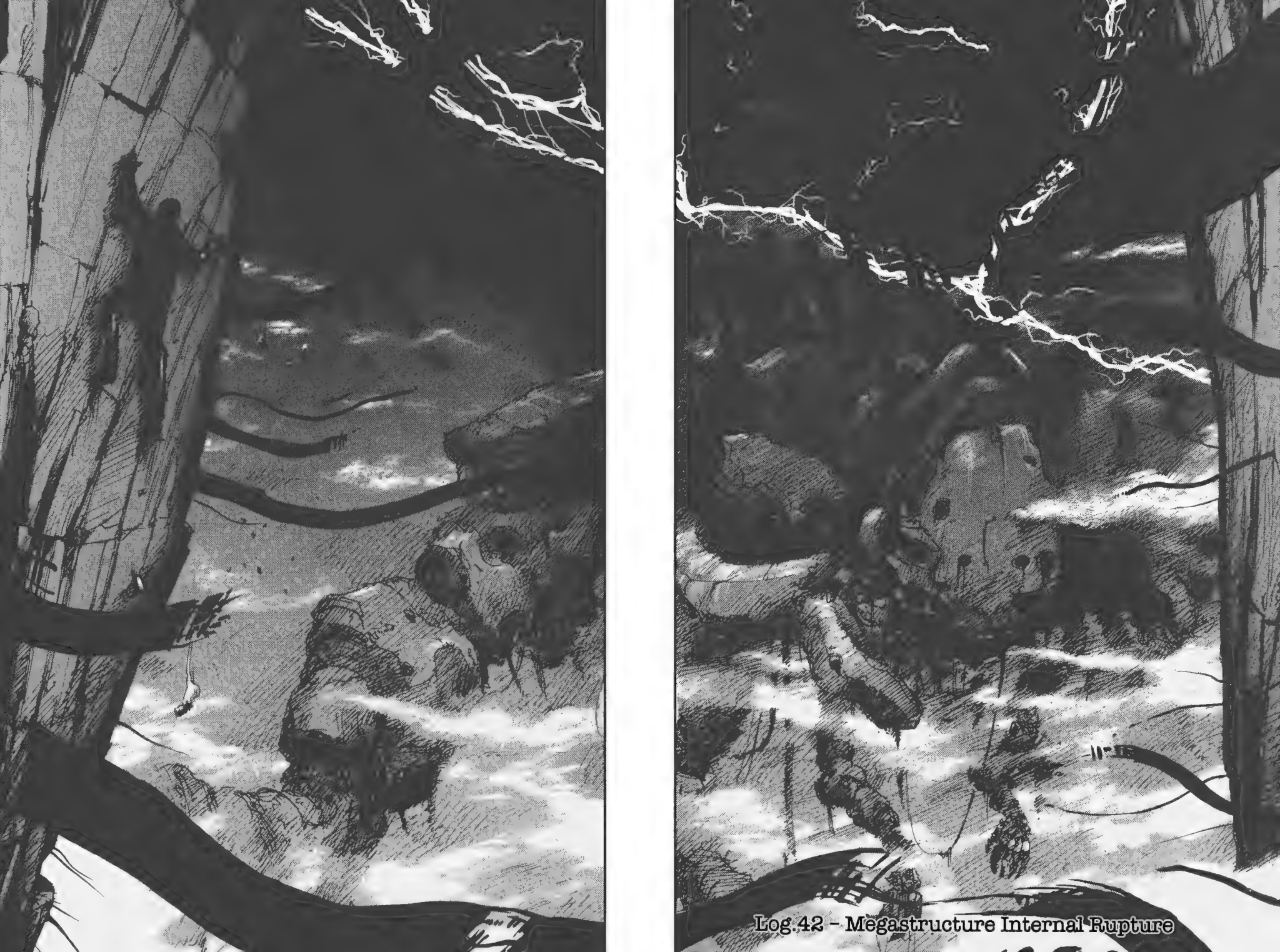

I'LL GET STARTED ON THE PREPARATIONS TO TAKE YOU OFF THIS LEVEL.


TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON HERE.
IF WE FIND KILLY...
...I THINK WE CAN HELP YOU.

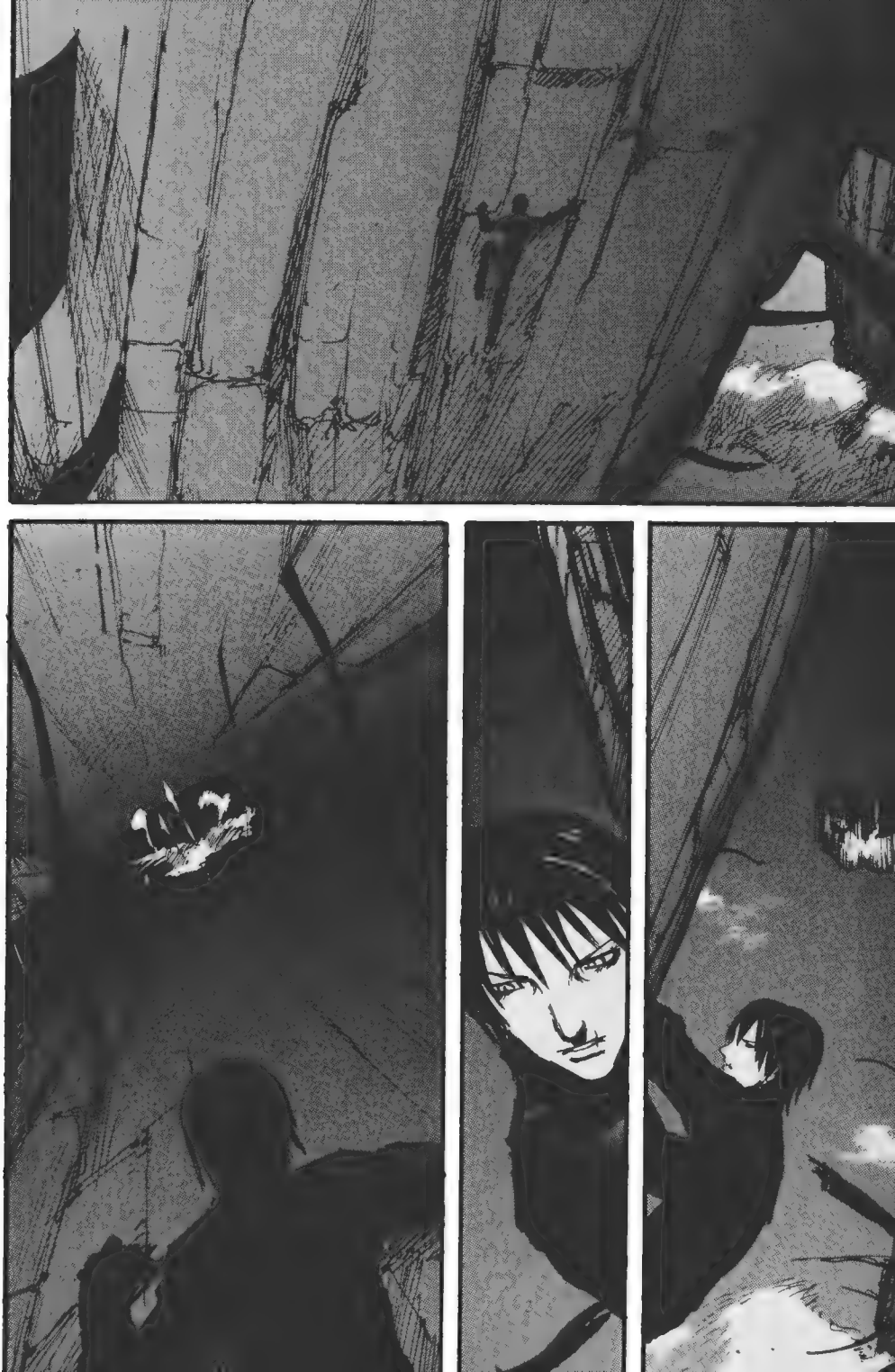

DHOMO-CHEVSKY.

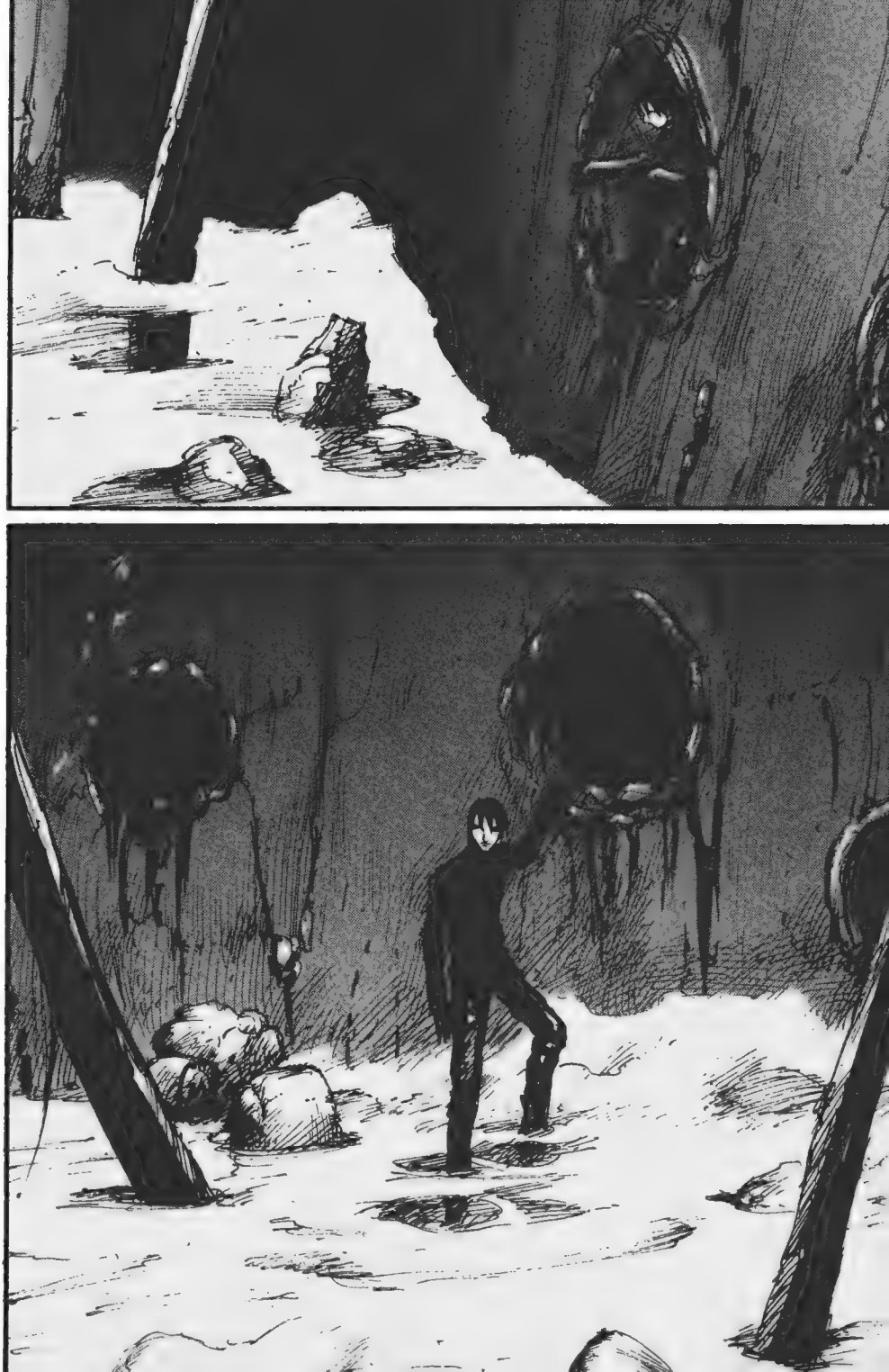
LOG.41 @ END

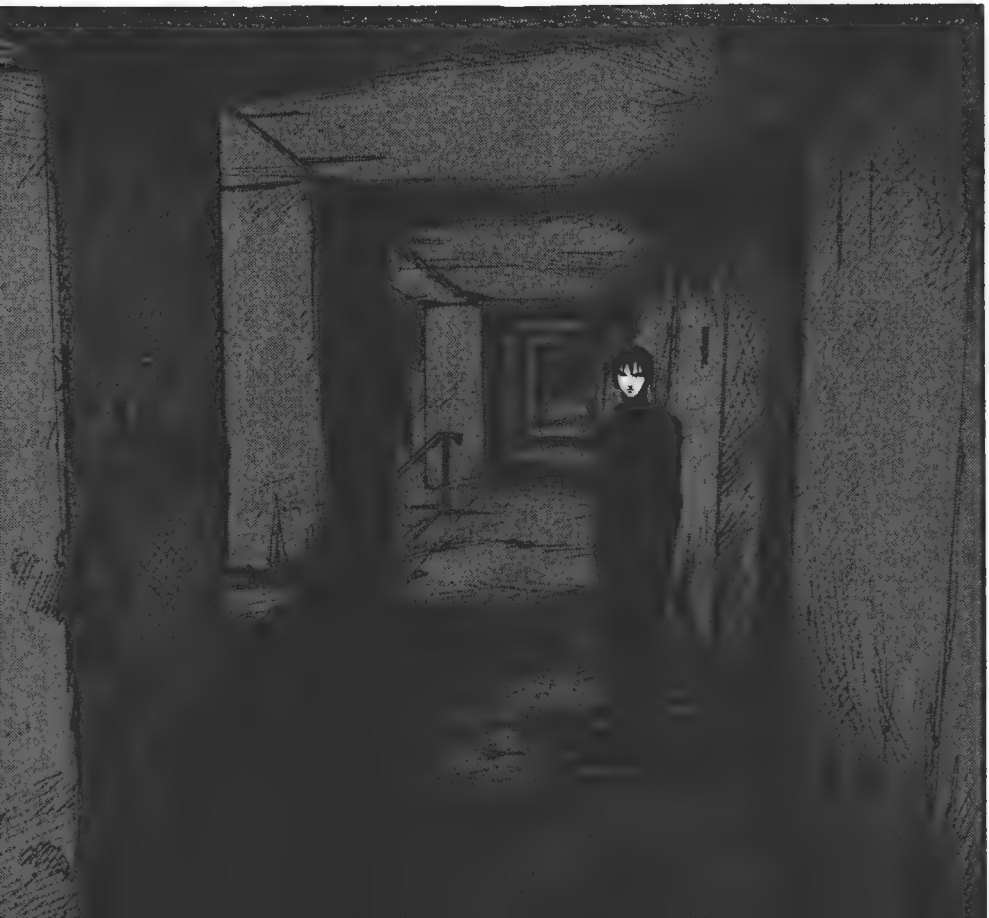
FWEEE
CRUMBLE

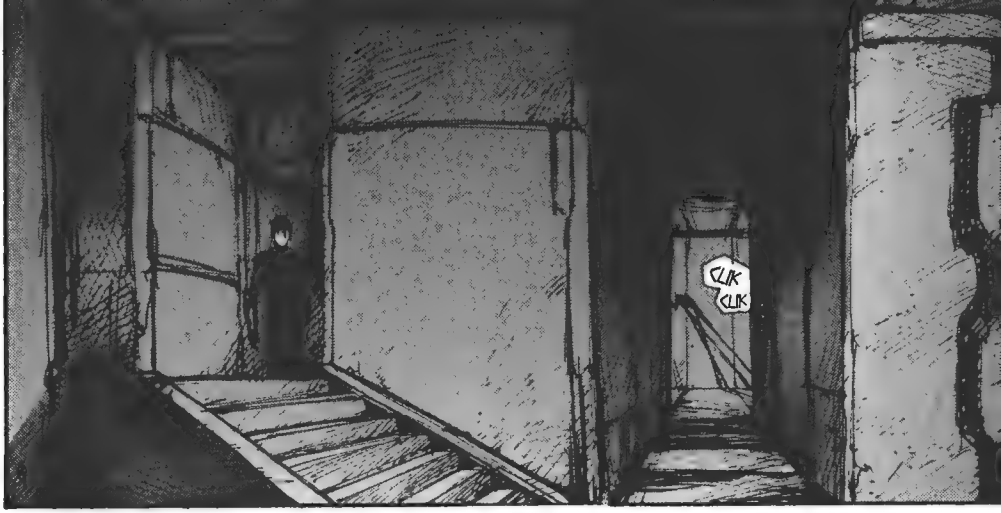

Log.42 - Megastructure Internal Rupture

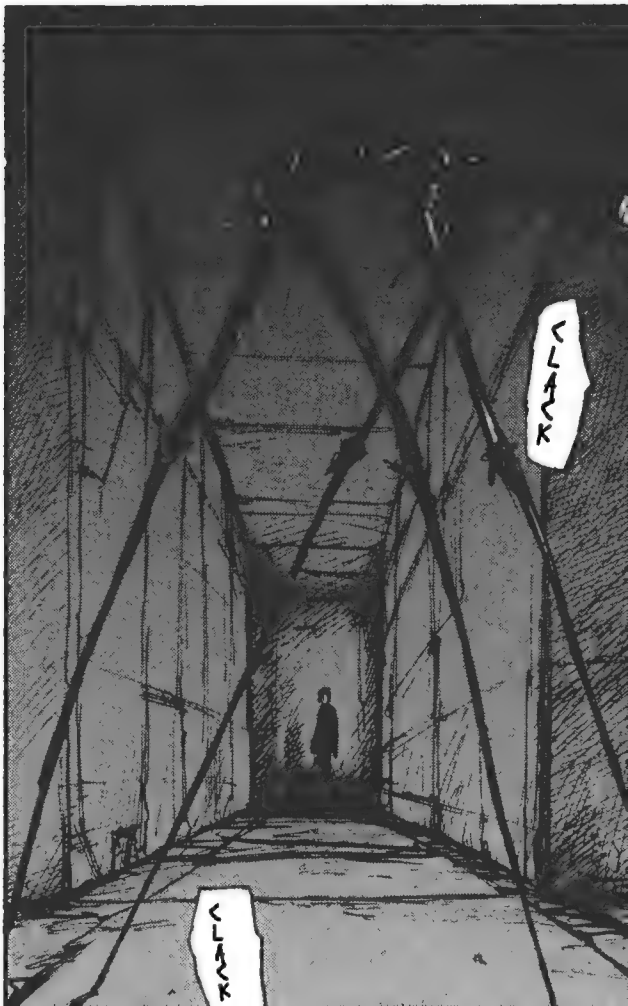
B-BMM



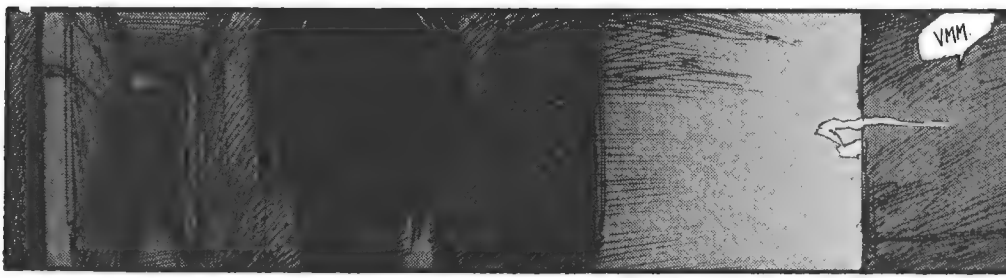


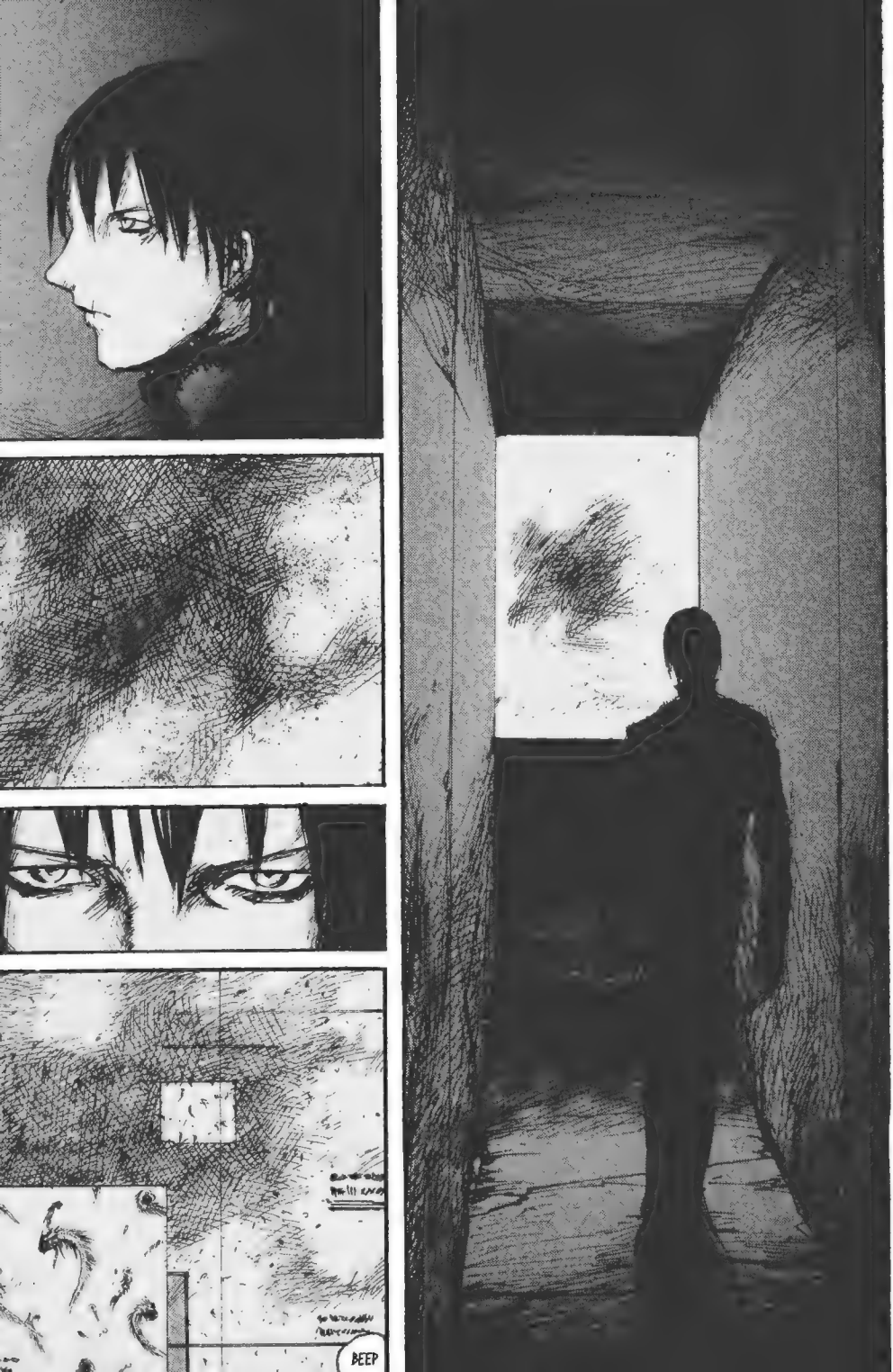



CLIK
CLIK


CLANK
CLANK

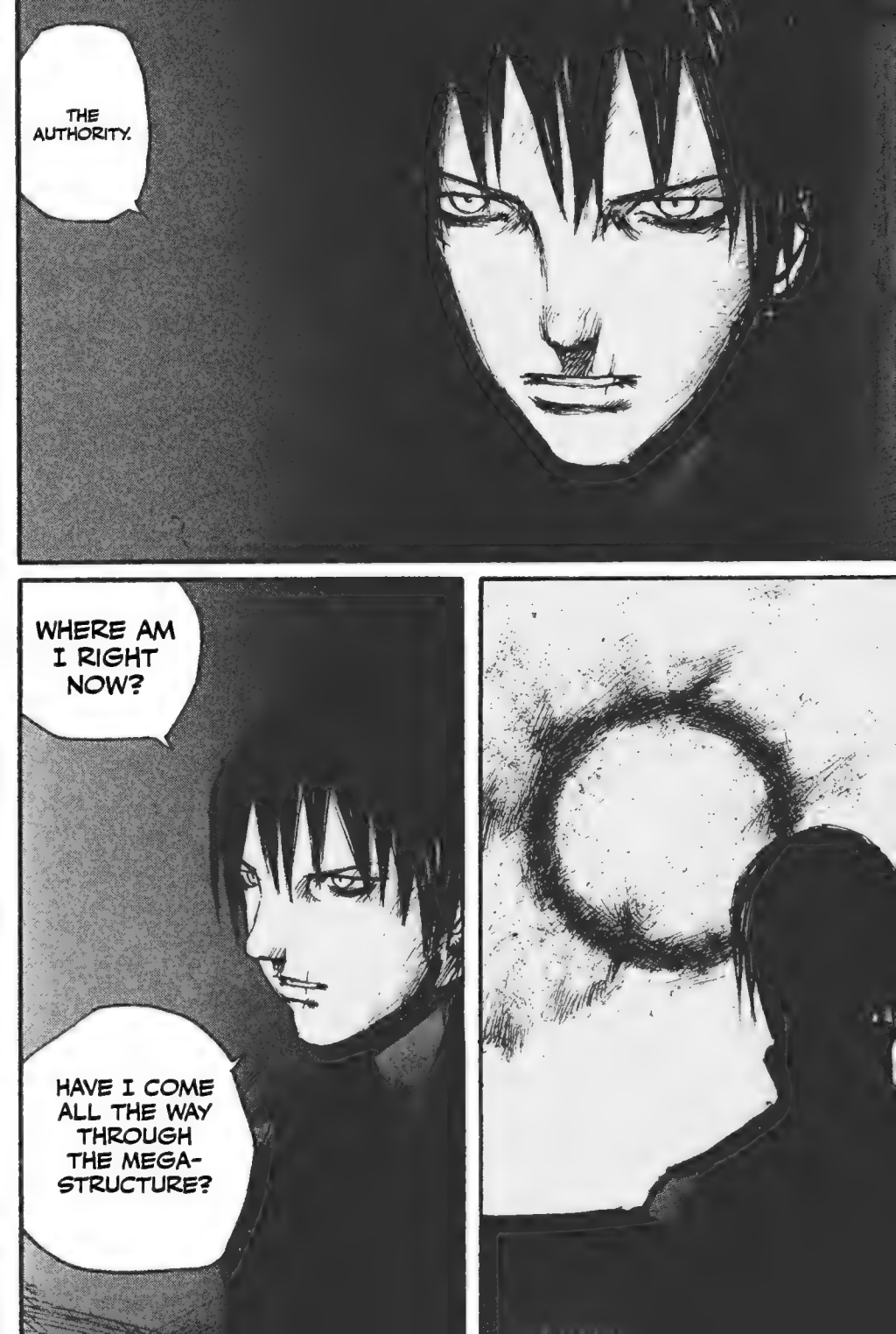
ZZZZIT
ZZ

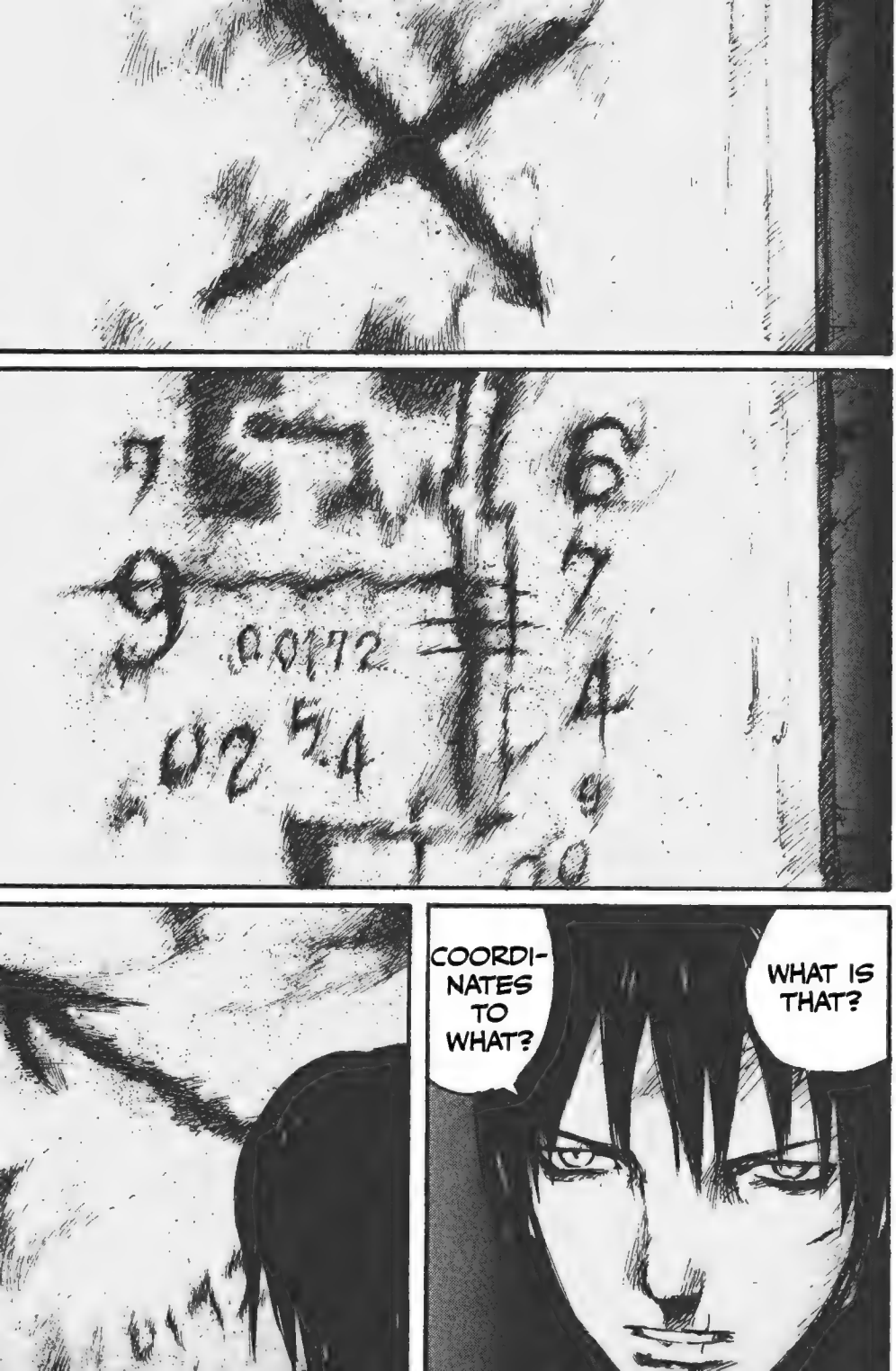

VMM.


BEEP

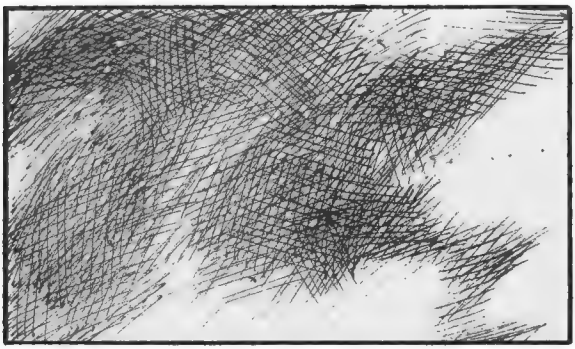
ZZRT

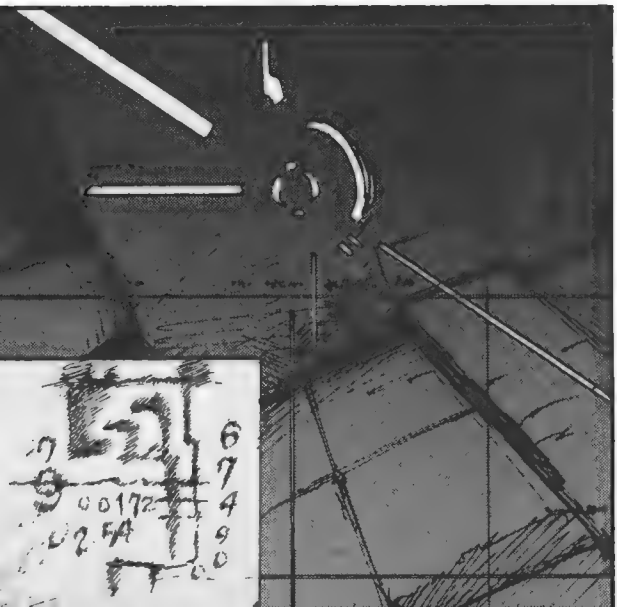
WHO'S THERE?


THE AUTHORITY.
WHERE AM I RIGHT NOW?
HAVE I COME ALL THE WAY THROUGH THE MEGA-STRUCTURE?

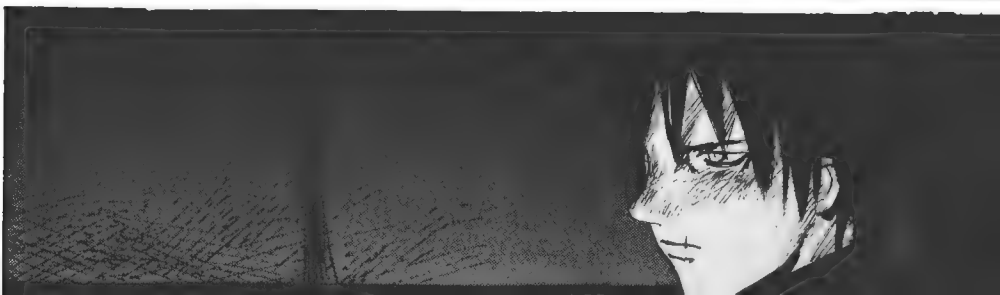

COORDI-
NATES
TO
WHAT?
WHAT IS
THAT?

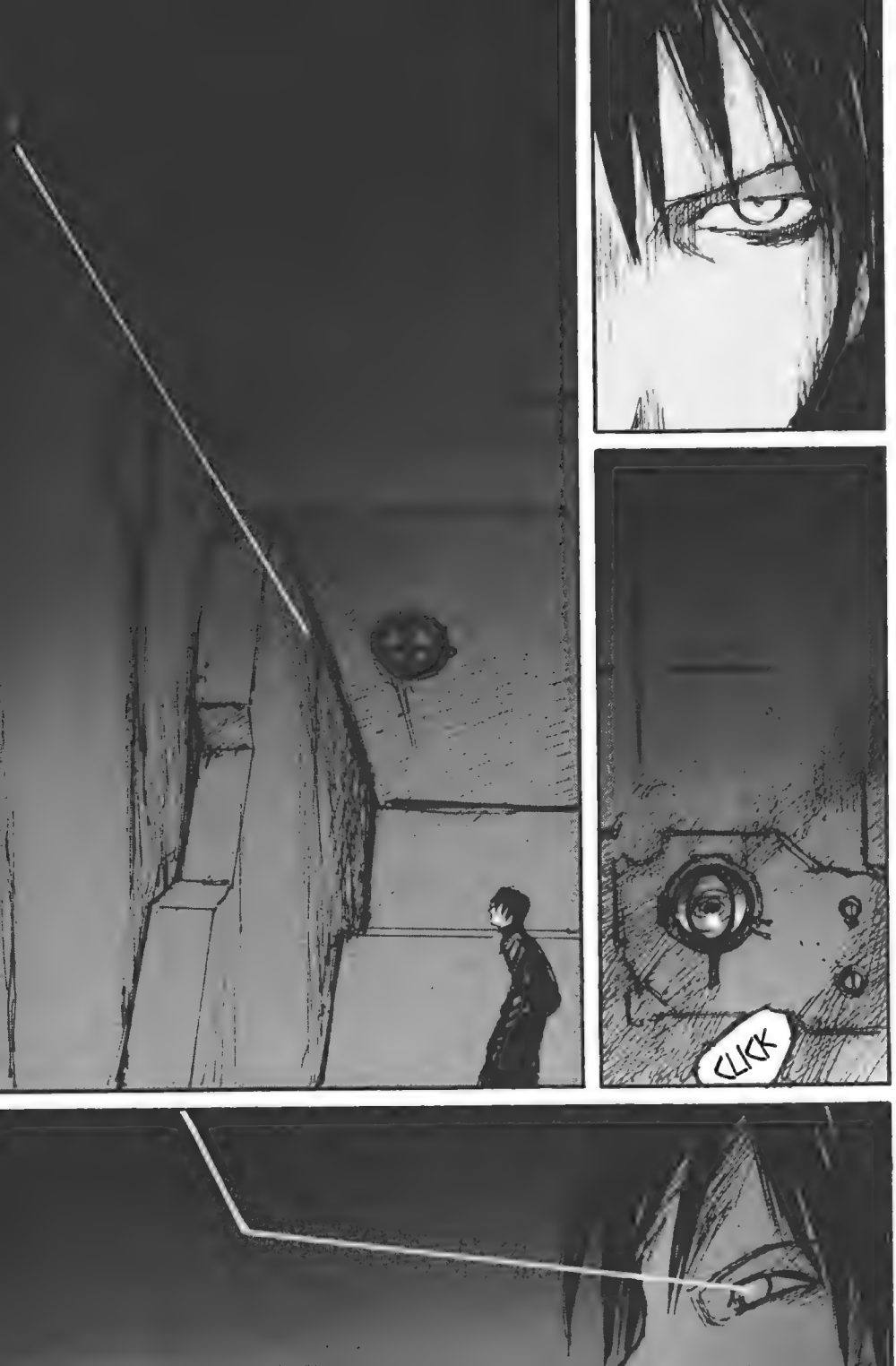
ZZZAP

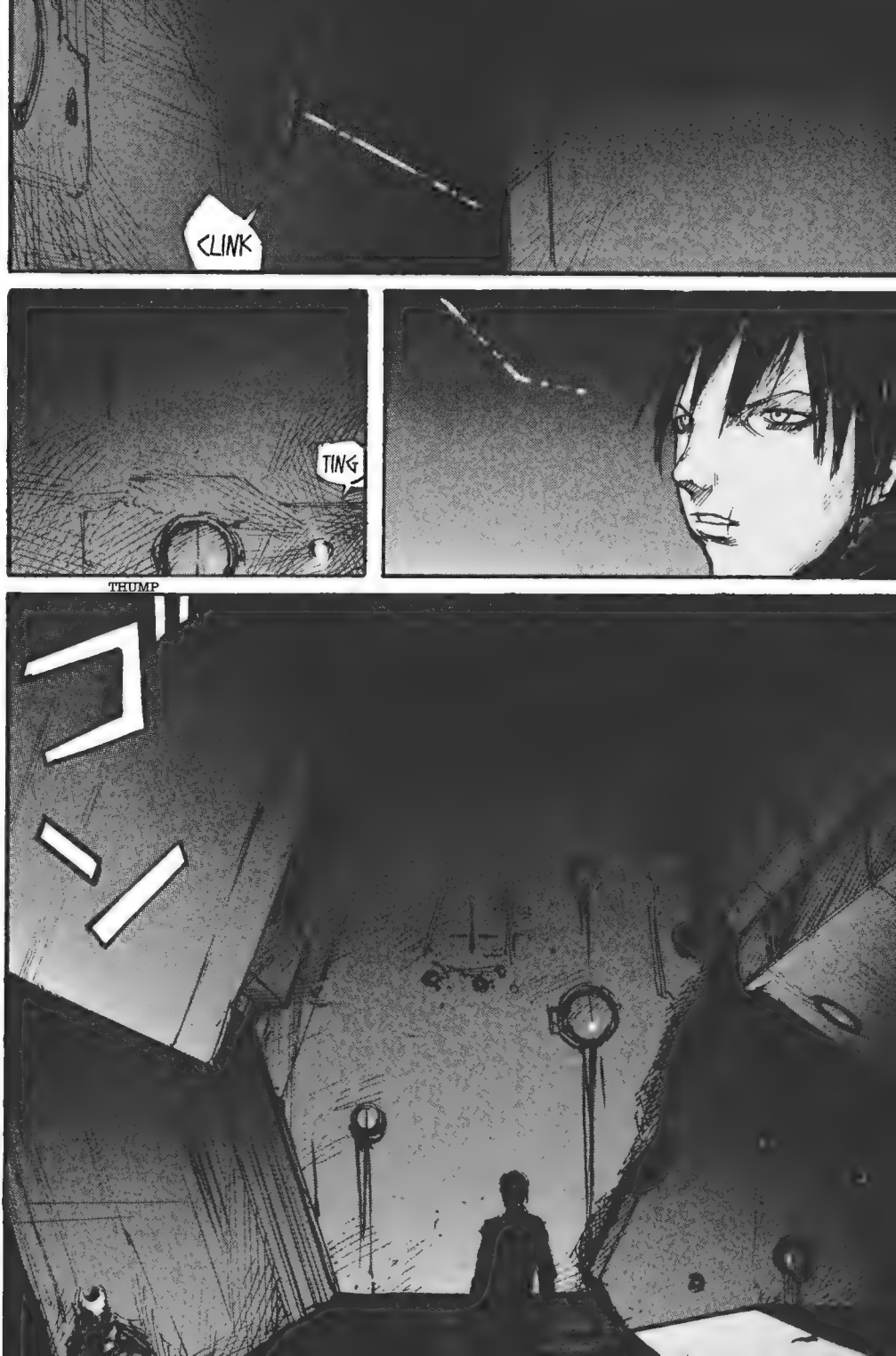




ГИФФИ!

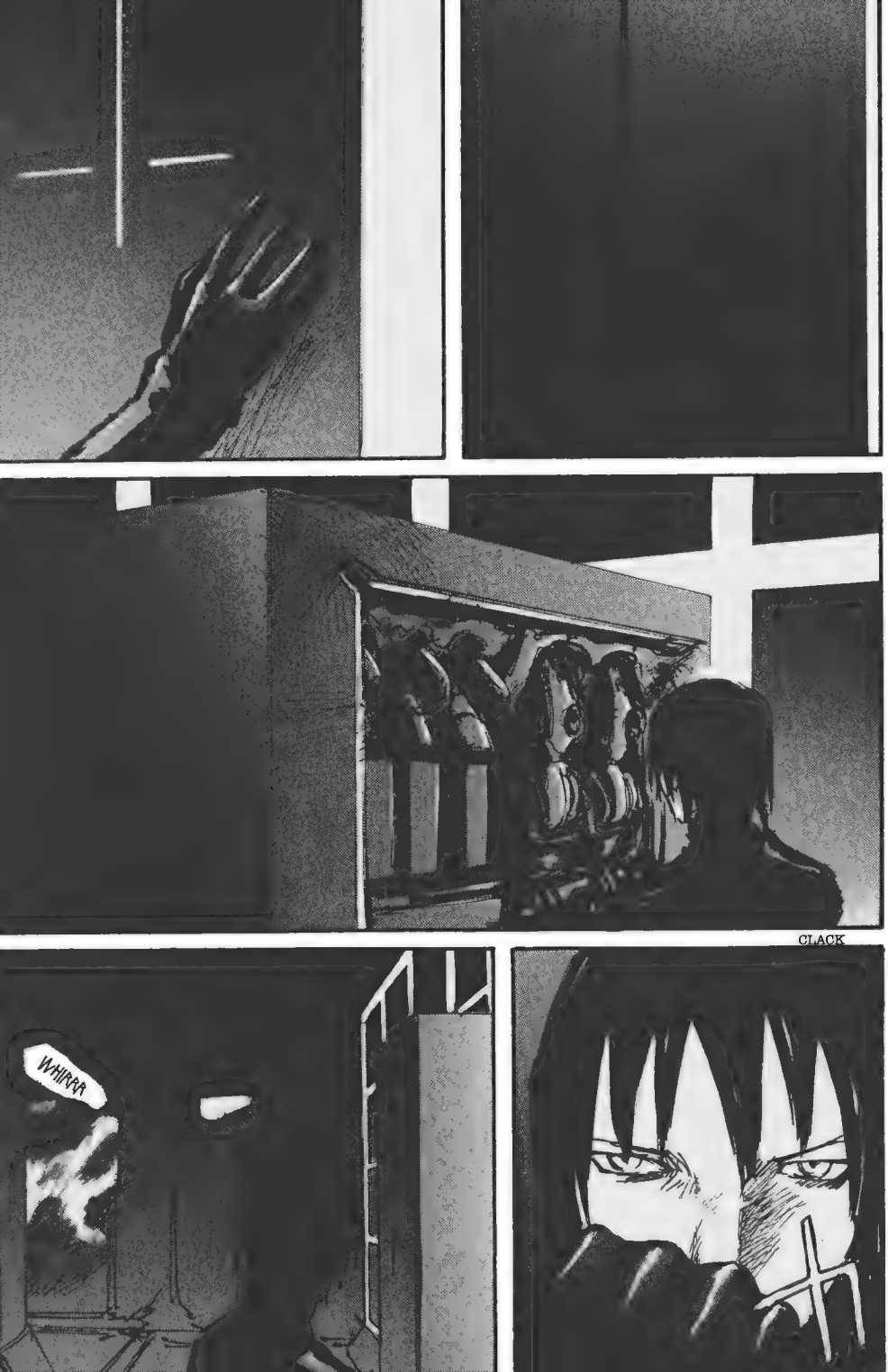



CLICK

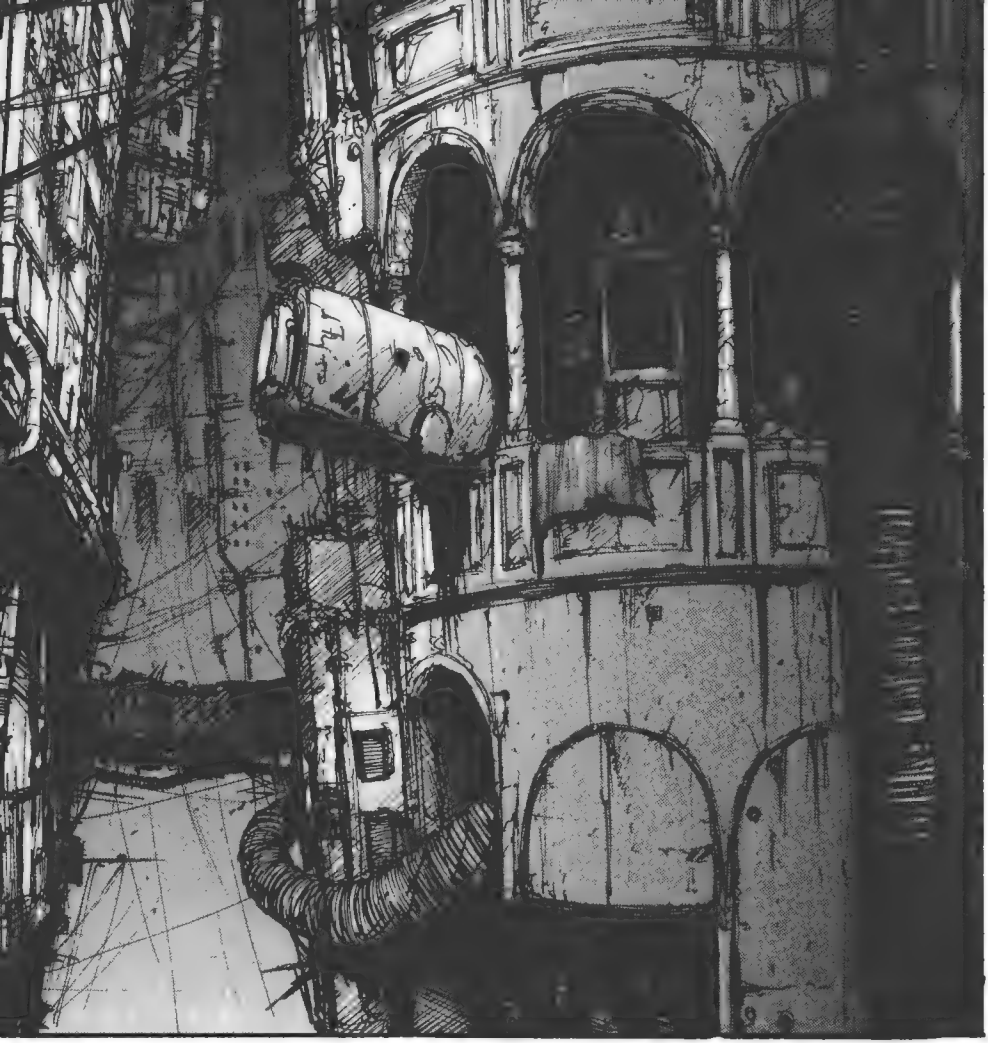

CLINK
TING
THUMP

GSSHUNK

SHHHK


CLACK
WHIRRR

LOG.42 @ END



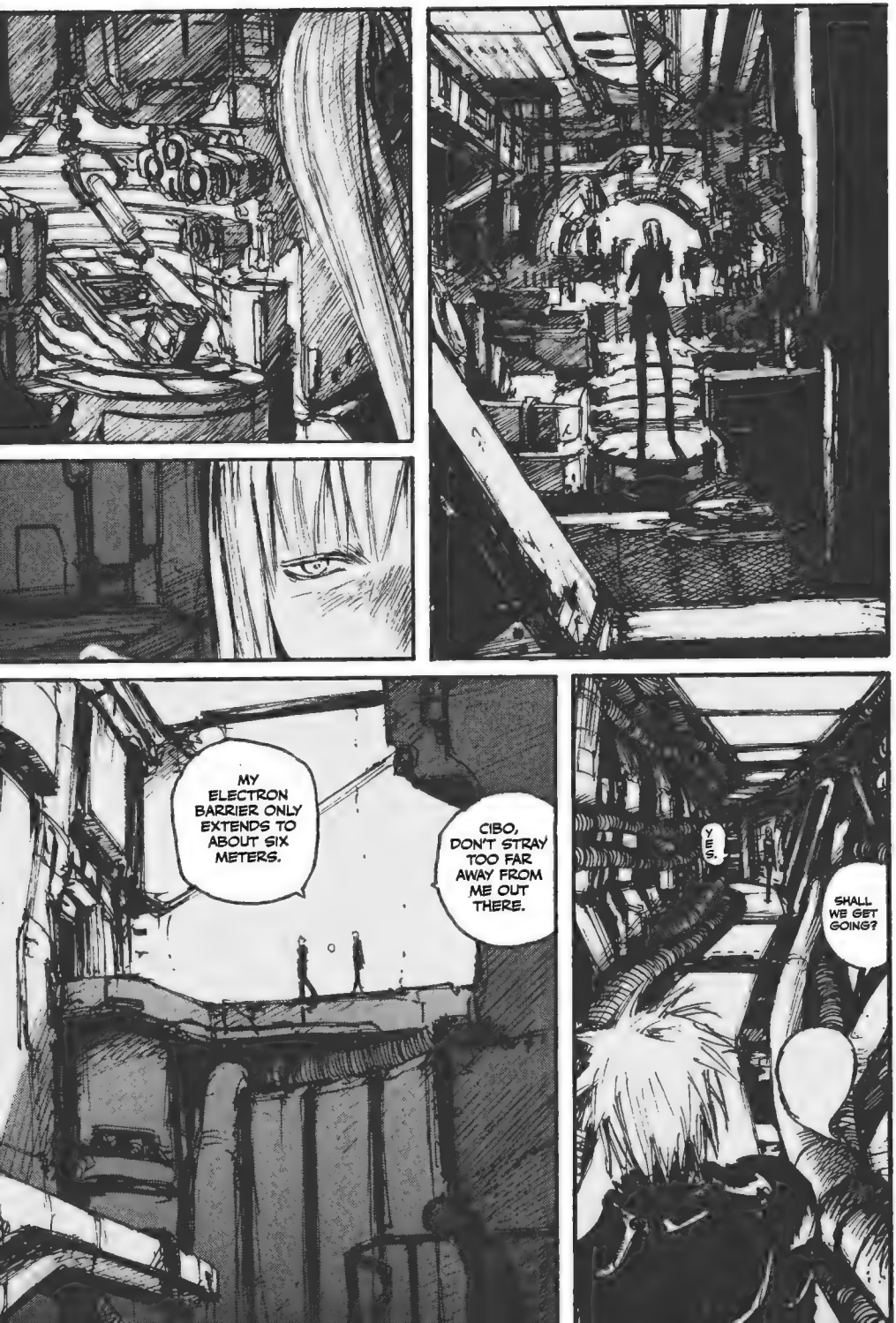
FLAP
FLAP

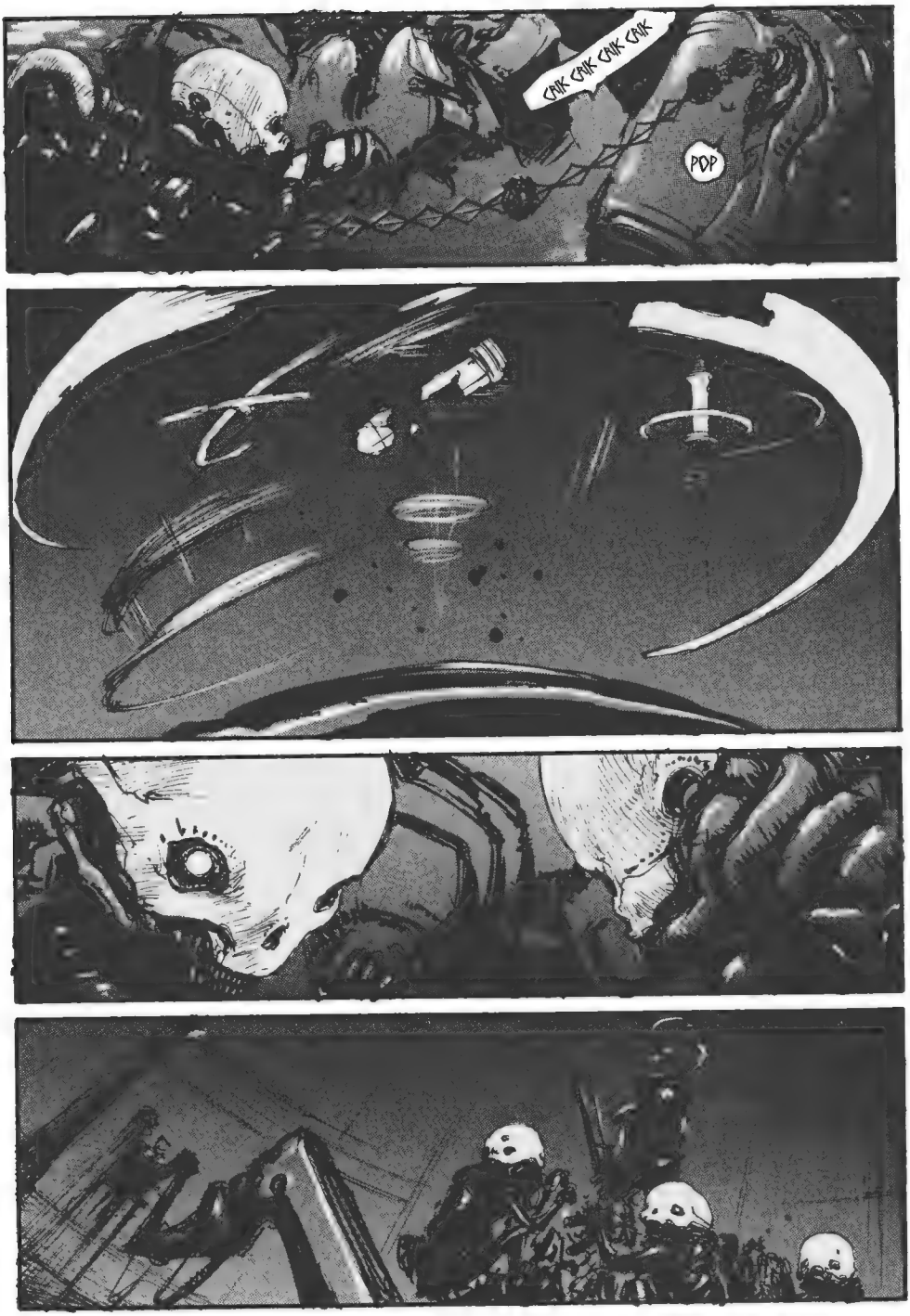
LOG.43 – Temporary Safeguards

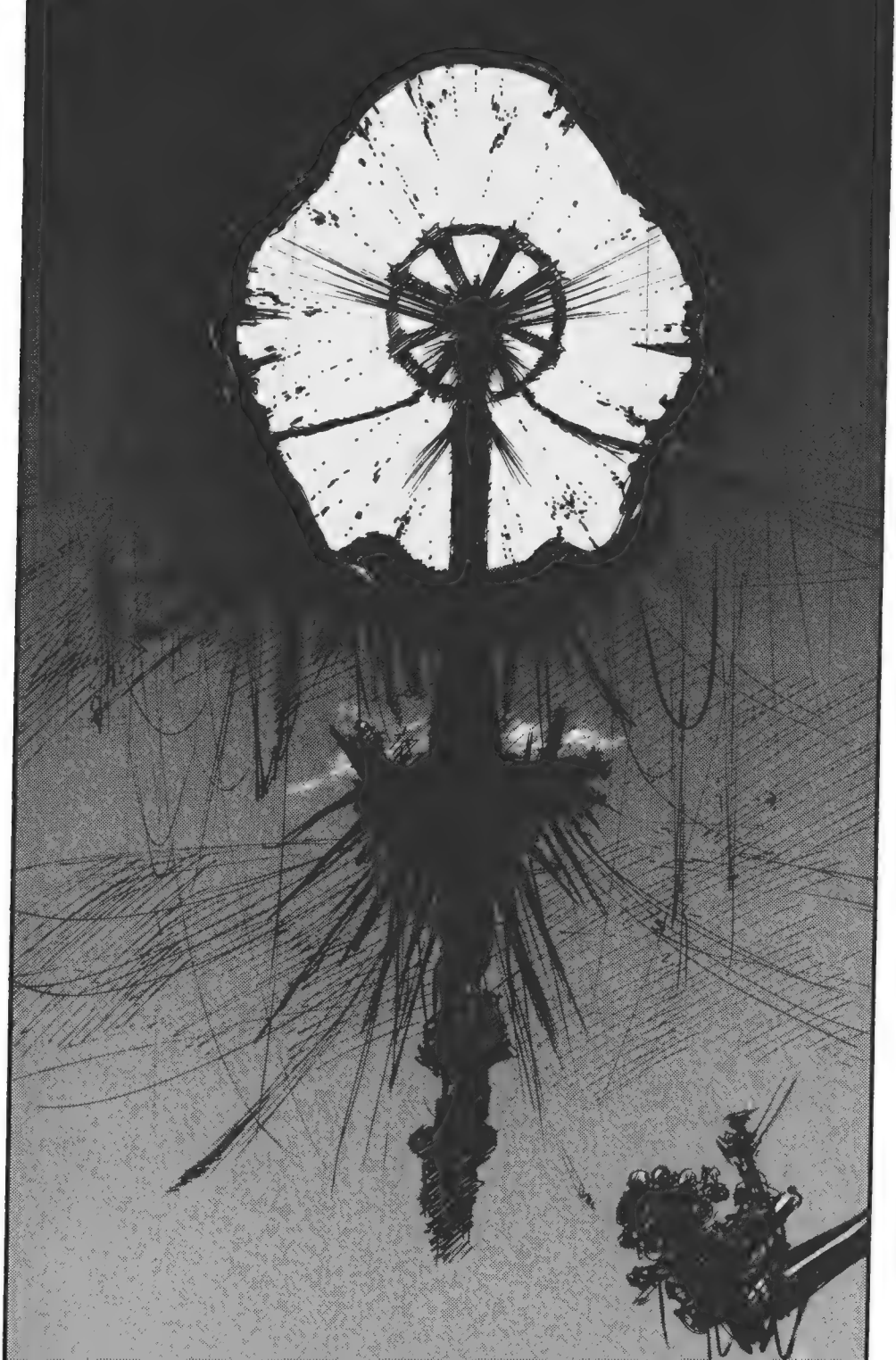
FLOP
THUD
HIYA, I'M ICO. ARE YOU FULLY CONSCIOUS?
WE WERE JUST APPOINTED TEMPORARY SAFEGUARDS.
THUMP

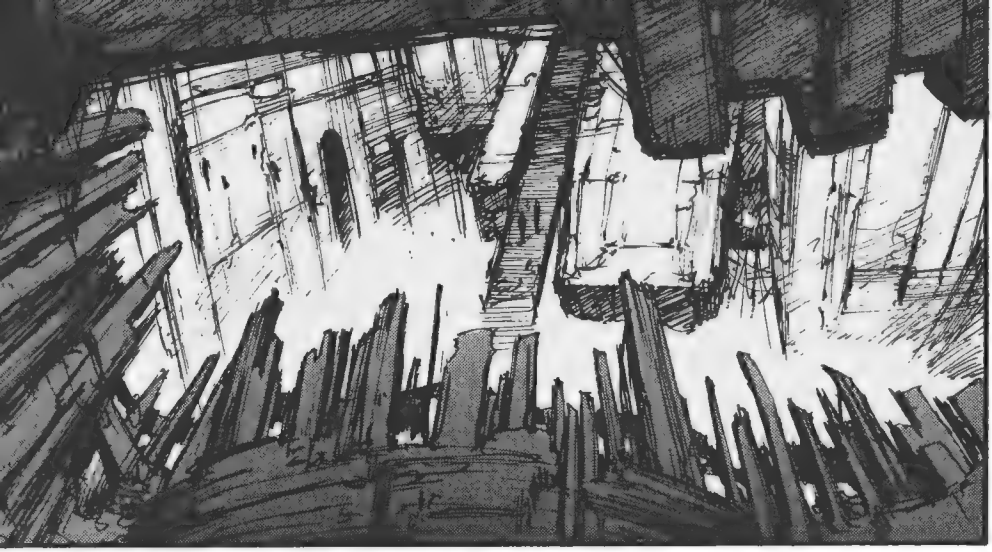
SEVEN OR EIGHT HOURS AGO, SILICON CREATURES INVADED.
THE FLOOR'S EMERGENCY SYSTEM CREATED US IN RESPONSE TO THE THREAT.
THWUD
THE SILICON CREATURES HAVE SINCE SHUT DOWN THE SYSTEM IN THEIR ATTACK. SO WE'RE ON OUR OWN.
THEY MUST HAVE SOME REAL HIGH-LEVEL MACHINE LANGUAGE EXPERTS IN THEIR RANKS.
FLOP
FLOP
DHOMO-CHEVSKY.

ARE YOU DONE?
DHOMO?
I'VE SCRAPPED ALL NECESSARY RECORDS. WE CAN LEAVE ANYTIME.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?

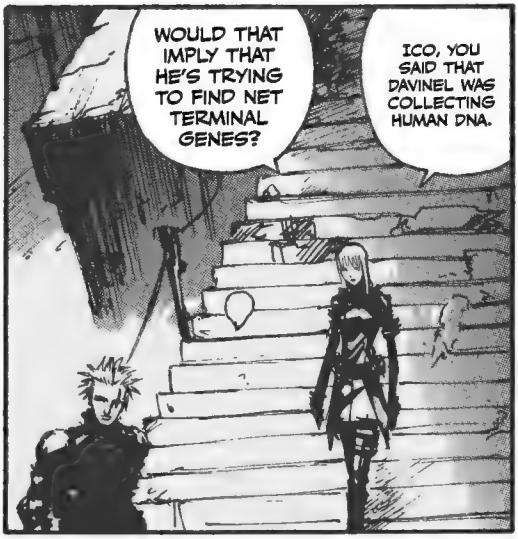

MY ELECTRON BARRIER ONLY EXTENDS TO ABOUT SIX METERS.
CIBO, DON'T STRAY TOO FAR AWAY FROM ME OUT THERE.
YES.
SHALL WE GET GOING?

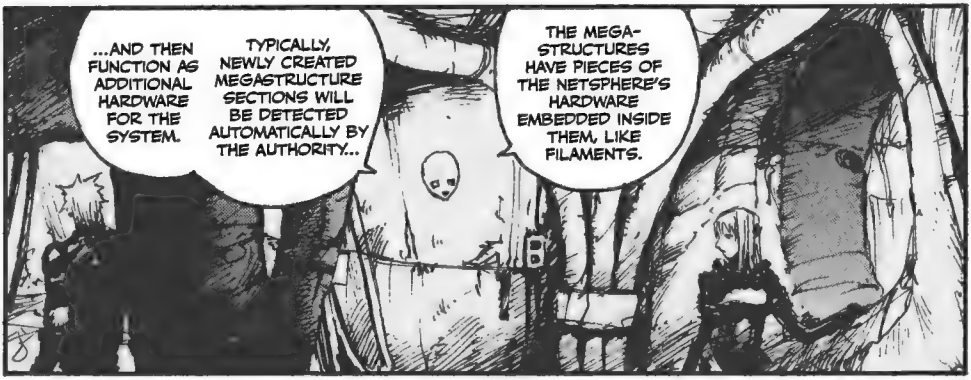

CHIK CHIK CHIK CHIK
PDP

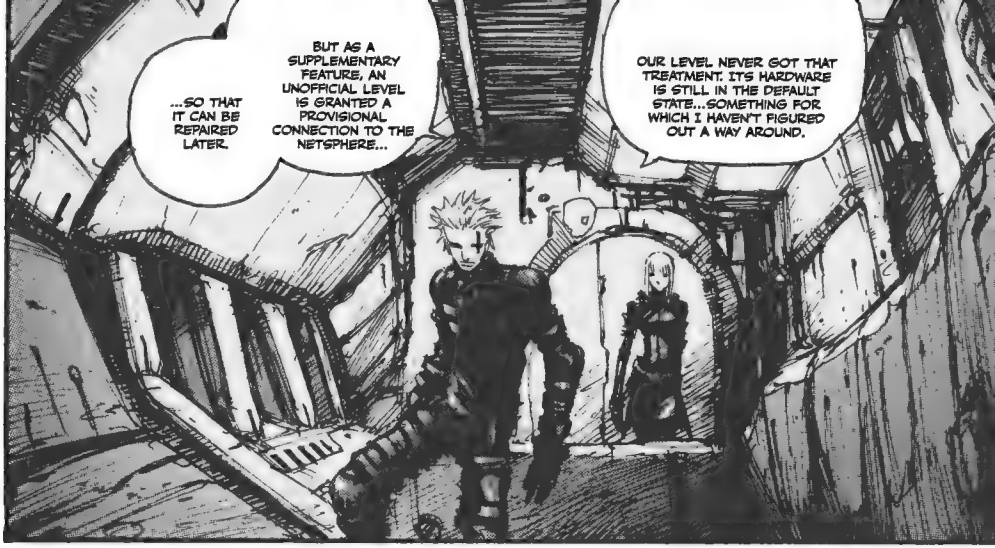


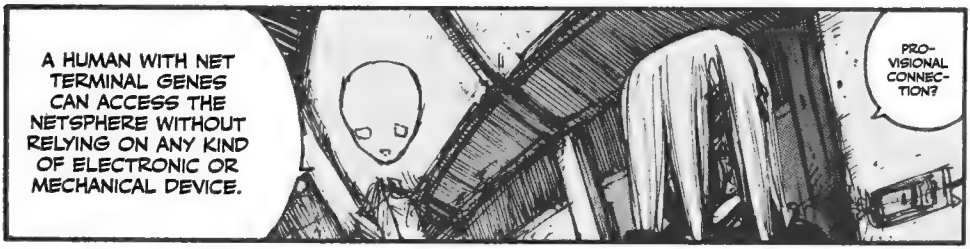


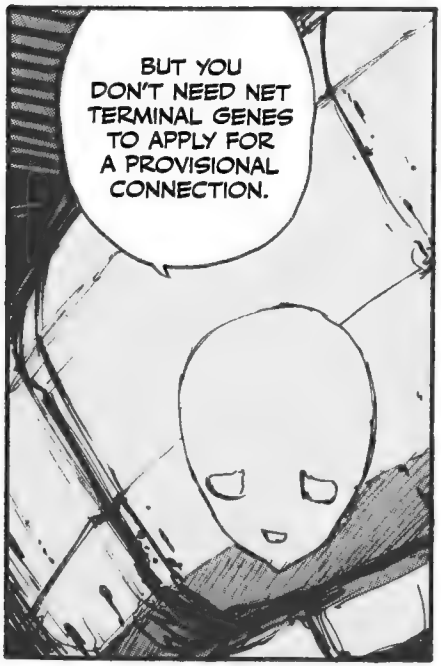
NO, NOT QUITE.
THIS IS AN UN-OFFICIAL LEVEL, SO IT'S GOT SOME SPECIAL PROPERTIES.


ICO, YOU SAID THAT DAVINEL WAS COLLECTING HUMAN DNA.
WOULD THAT IMPLY THAT HE'S TRYING TO FIND NET TERMINAL GENES?

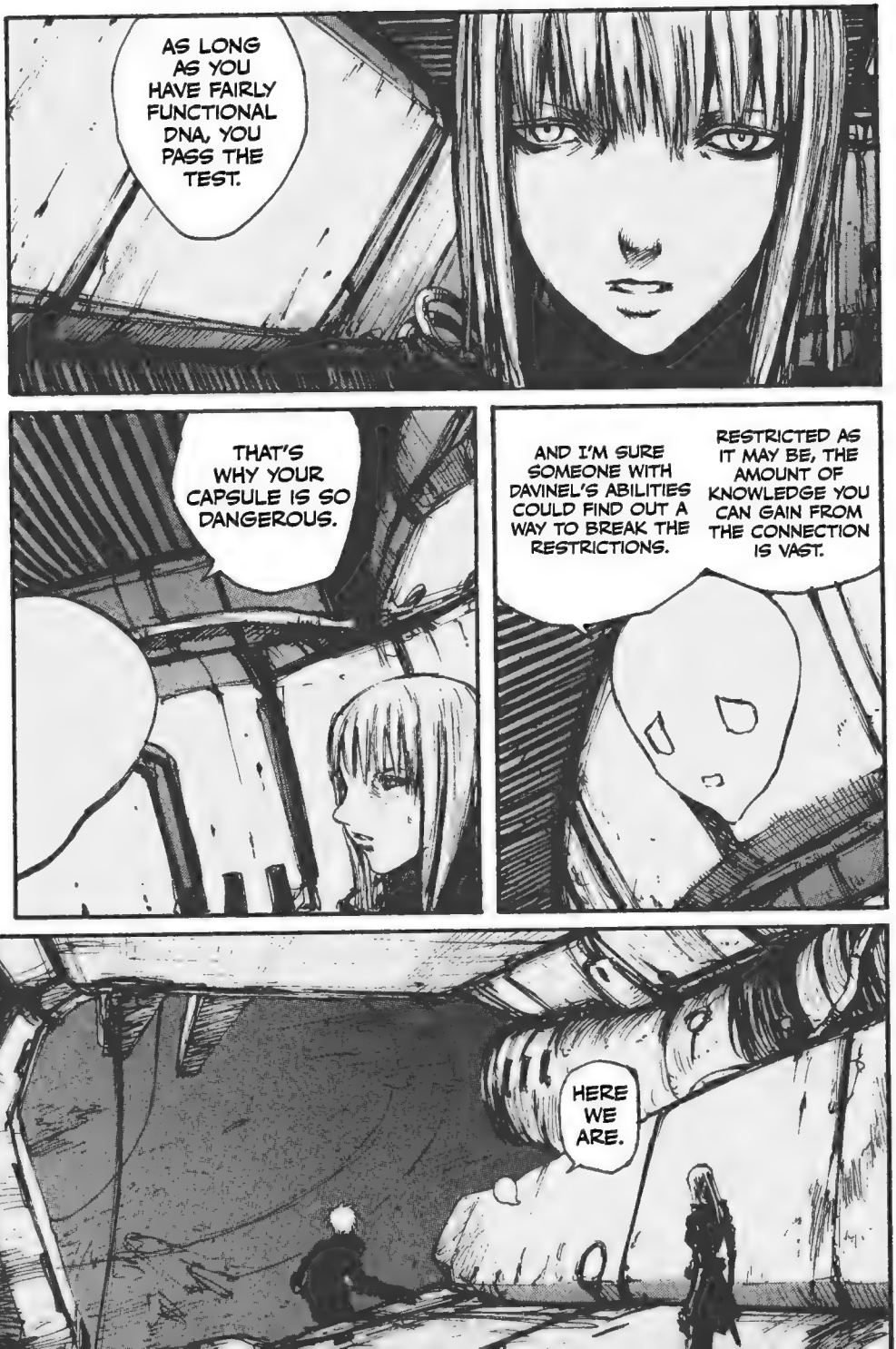

THE MEGA-STRUCTURES HAVE PIECES OF THE NETSPHERE'S HARDWARE EMBEDDED INSIDE THEM, LIKE FILAMENTS.
TYPICALLY, NEWLY CREATED MEGASTRUCTURE SECTIONS WILL BE DETECTED AUTOMATICALLY BY THE AUTHORITY...
...AND THEN FUNCTION AS ADDITIONAL HARDWARE FOR THE SYSTEM.


...SO THAT IT CAN BE REPAIRED LATER.
BUT AS A SUPPLEMENTARY FEATURE, AN UNOFFICIAL LEVEL IS GRANTED A PROVISIONAL CONNECTION TO THE NETSPHERE...
OUR LEVEL NEVER GOT THAT TREATMENT. IT'S HARDWARE IS STILL IN THE DEFAULT STATE...SOMETHING FOR WHICH I HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT A WAY AROUND.

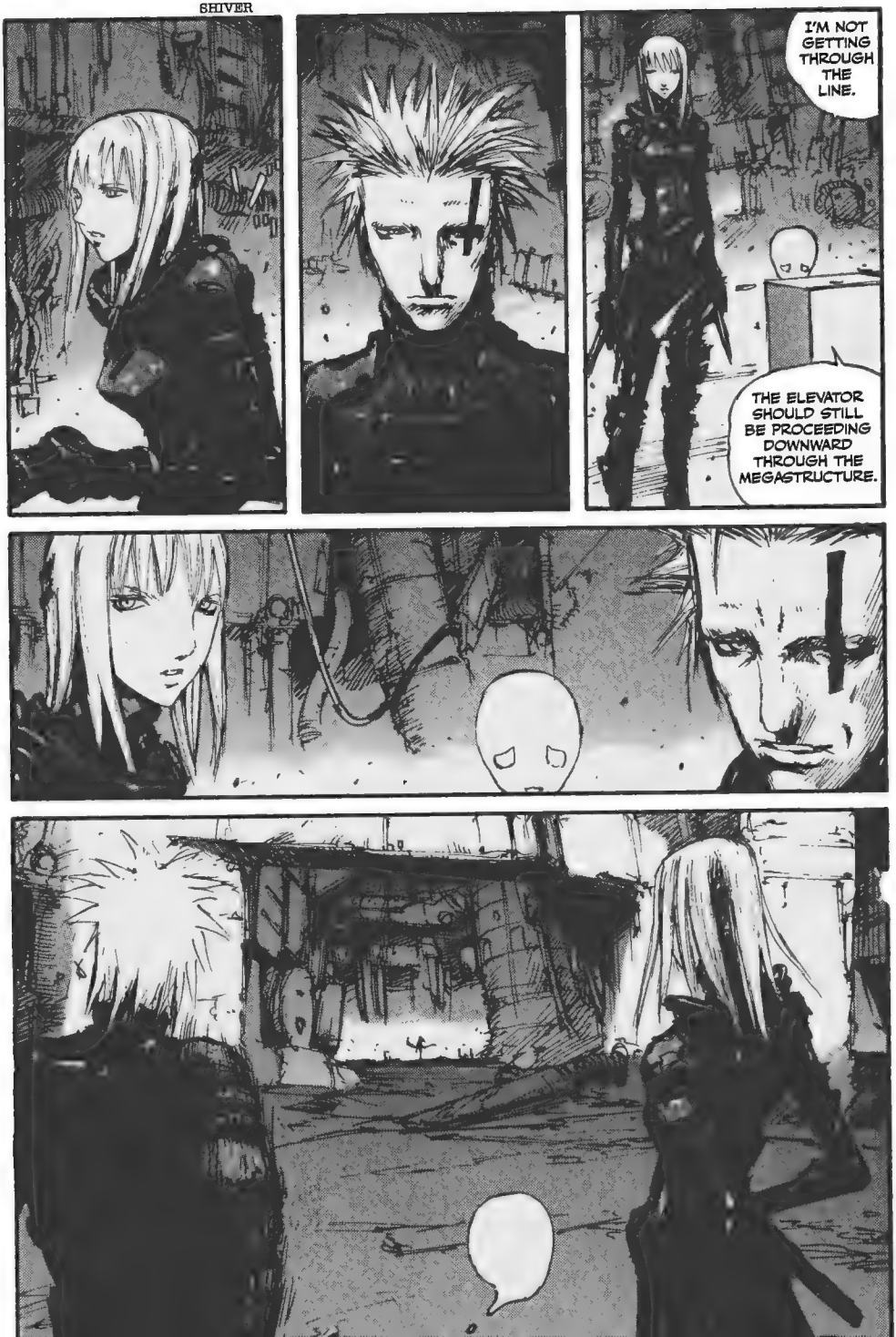

A HUMAN WITH NET TERMINAL GENES CAN ACCESS THE NETSPHERE WITHOUT RELYING ON ANY KIND OF ELECTRONIC OR MECHANICAL DEVICE.
PRO-VISIONAL CONNEC-TION?


BUT YOU DON'T NEED NET TERMINAL GENES TO APPLY FOR A PROVISIONAL CONNECTION.

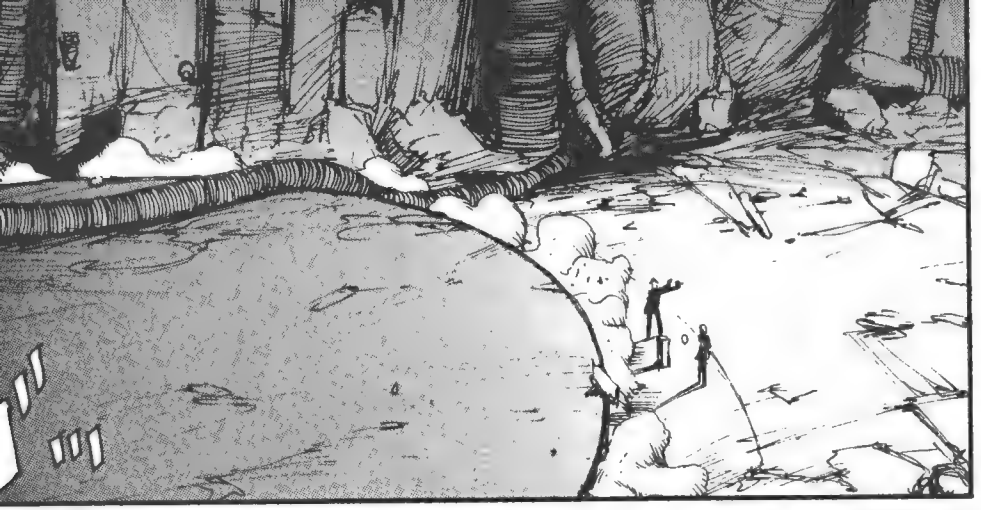
AND THERE ARE MANY RESTRICTIONS ON YOUR NET ACTIVITY: CHARACTER TRANSCRIPTION, USE OF THE STORAGE DATABASE, LENGTH AND EXTENT OF STAY, AND SO ON.
NOW A PROVISIONAL CONNECTION MUST BE MADE USING THE CONNECTION INTERFACE WITHIN THE REPOSITORY.


AS LONG AS YOU HAVE FAIRLY FUNCTIONAL DNA, YOU PASS THE TEST.
THAT'S WHY YOUR CAPSULE IS SO DANGEROUS.
AND I'M SURE SOMEONE WITH DAVINEL'S ABILITIES COULD FIND OUT A WAY TO BREAK THE RESTRICTIONS.
RESTRICTED AS IT MAY BE, THE AMOUNT OF KNOWLEDGE YOU CAN GAIN FROM THE CONNECTION IS VAST.
HERE WE ARE.

ZZZZT
SHHWUNK
THWAP


I'M NOT GETTING THROUGH THE LINE.
THE ELEVATOR SHOULD STILL BE PROCEEDING DOWNWARD THROUGH THE MEGASTRUCTURE.

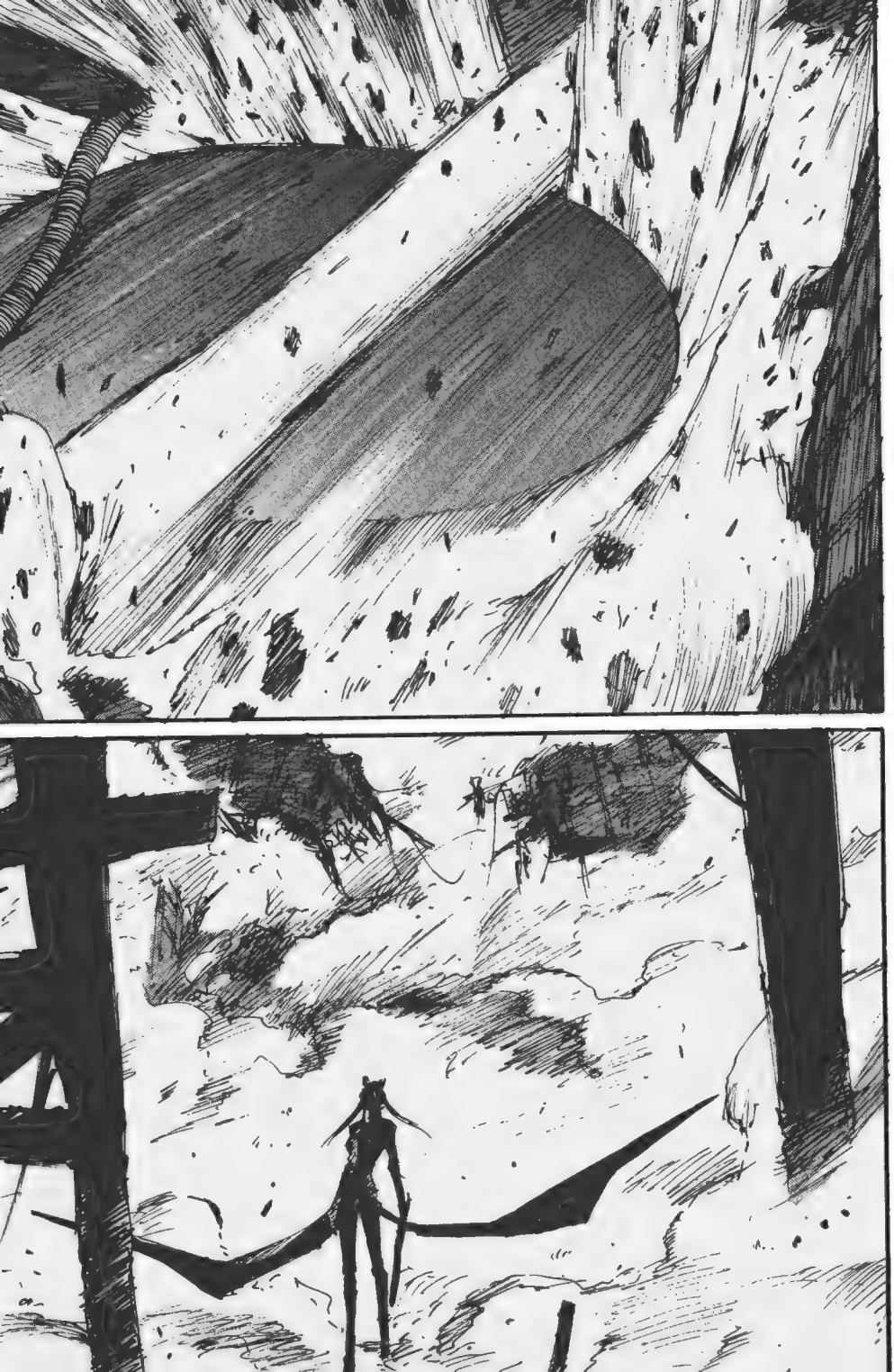
OPEN THE LID, ICO.



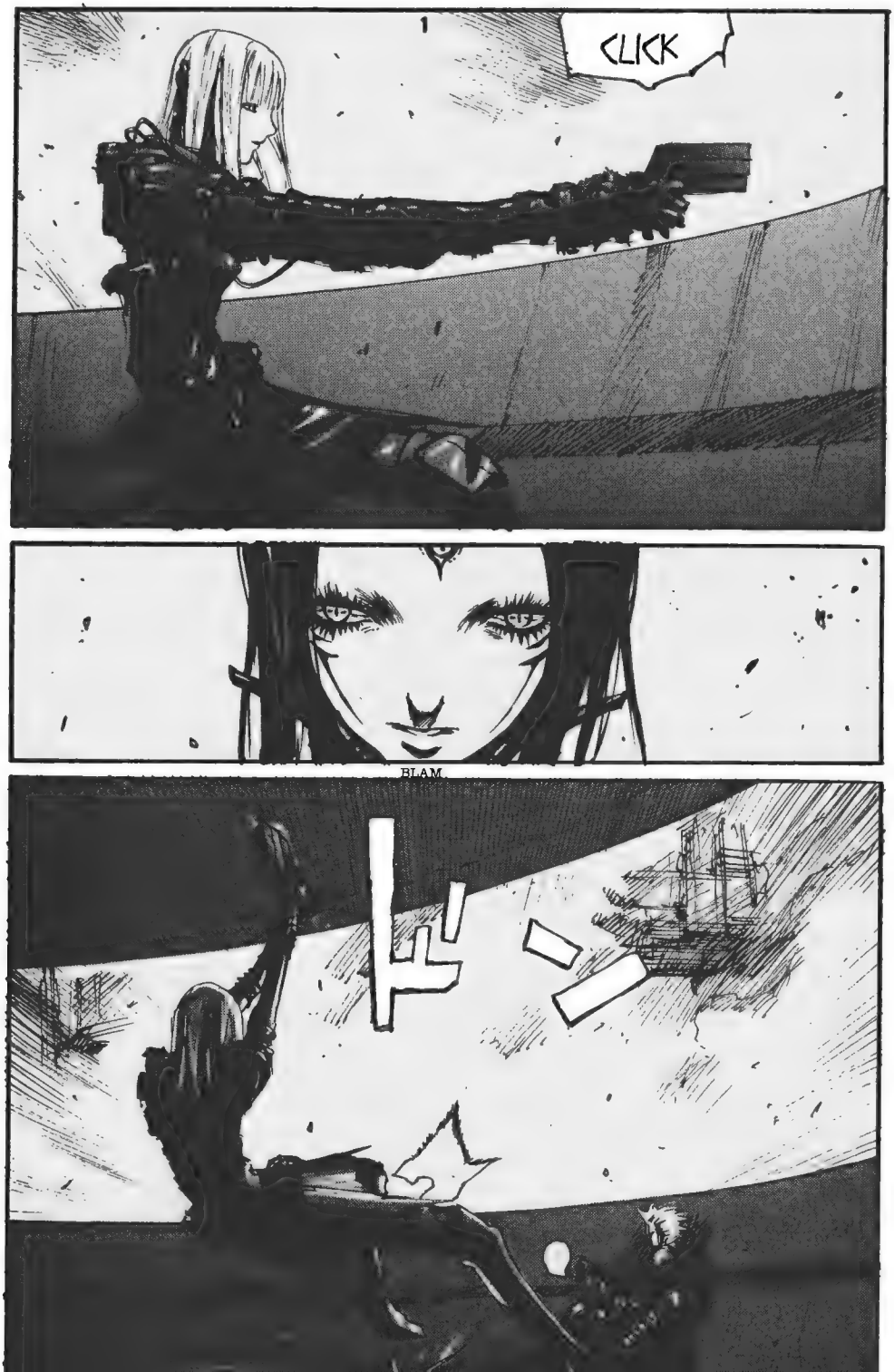
RUMBLE

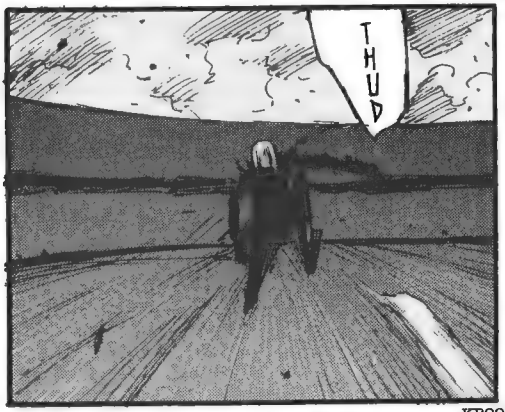
D-BOOM

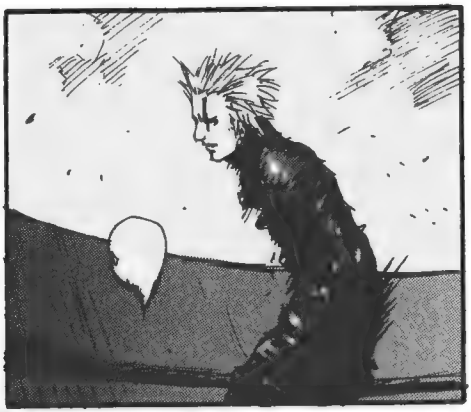
WHOOOSH



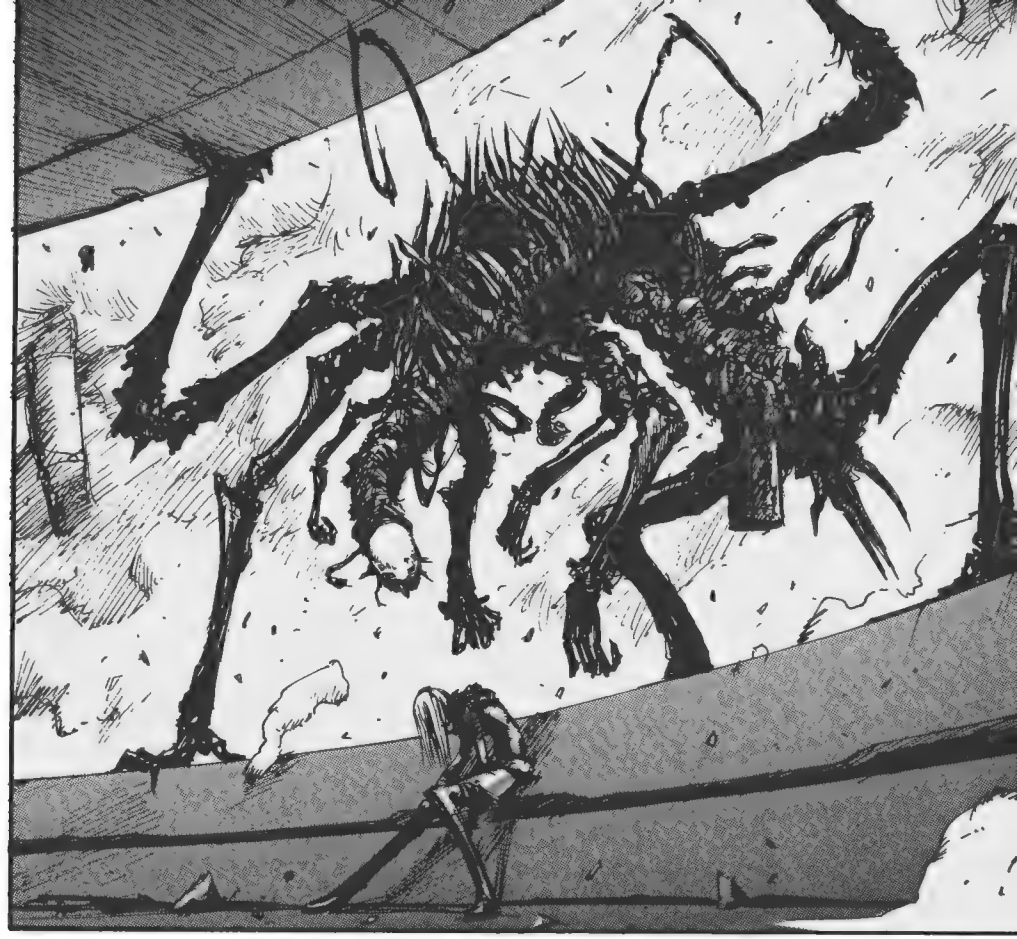
WE'LL NEVER MAKE IT. SHE'S THE TOUGHEST THEY HAVE.

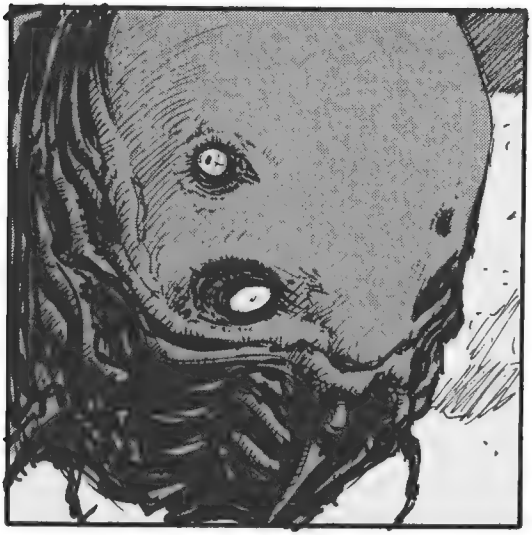

CLICK
BLAM





KBOOOM





BRATTA-RATTA-RATTA-RATTA-RATTA-RATTA
BLA-
BLAM
BLAM-
BLAM
BLA-
BLA-
BLAM-
BLAM

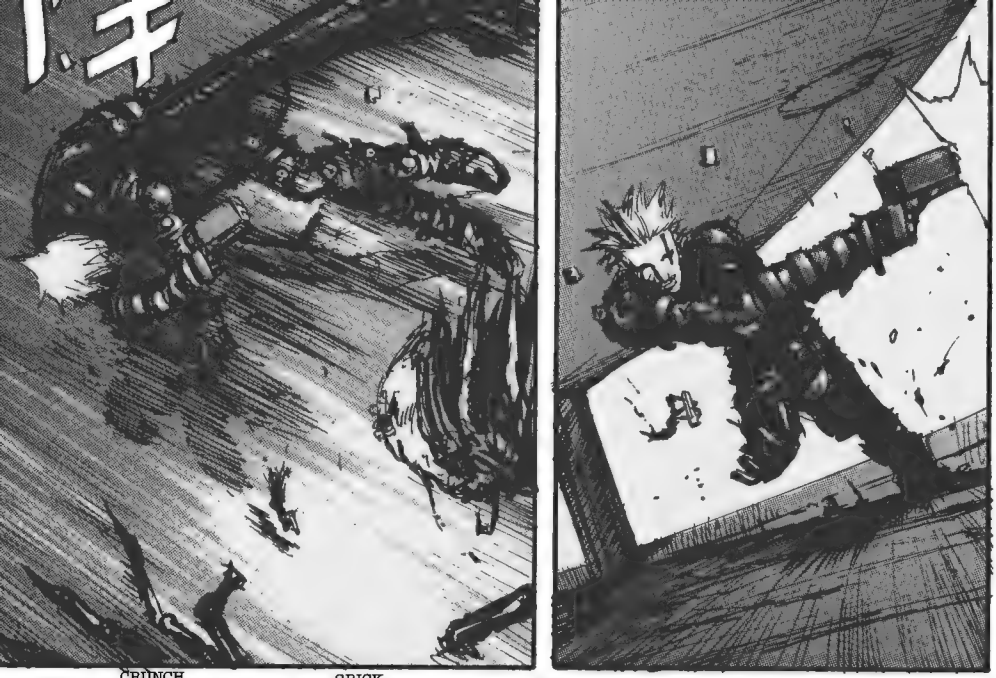
THACK

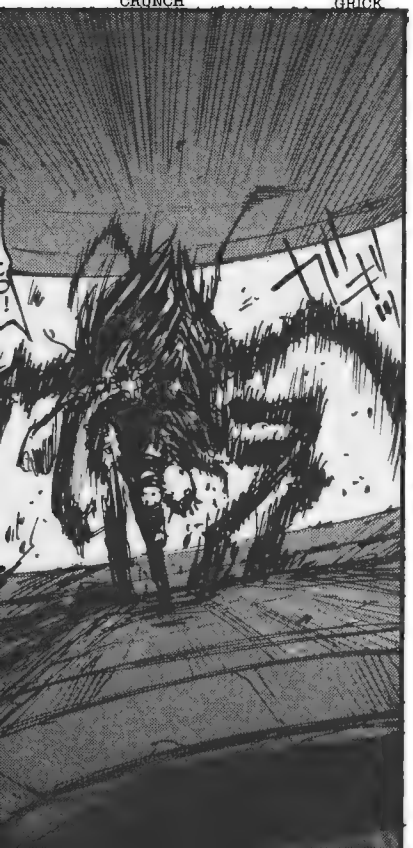
FLOP
VRRR
KLIK-KLIK KLIK-KLIK-KLIK
DADING DADING
SNATCH

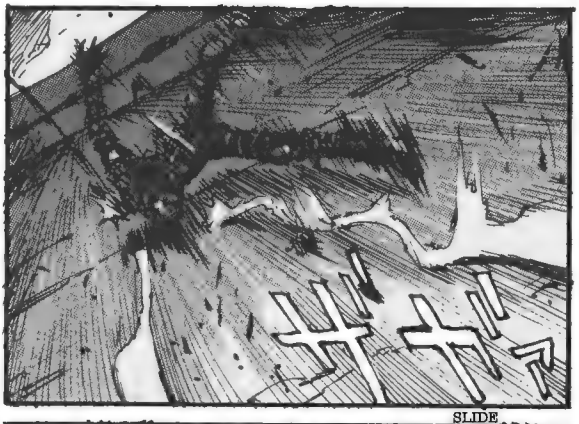
BA-BLAM

BLAM BLAM BLAM
BLAM BLAM
BLAM BLAM
GET INTO THE ELEVATOR SHAFT! HURRY!

GZZT
GR-GRRT
GO, CIBO! NOW !!
SCRAPE
BLAM
BLAM
WHISH
BLAM


CRUNCH
GRICK

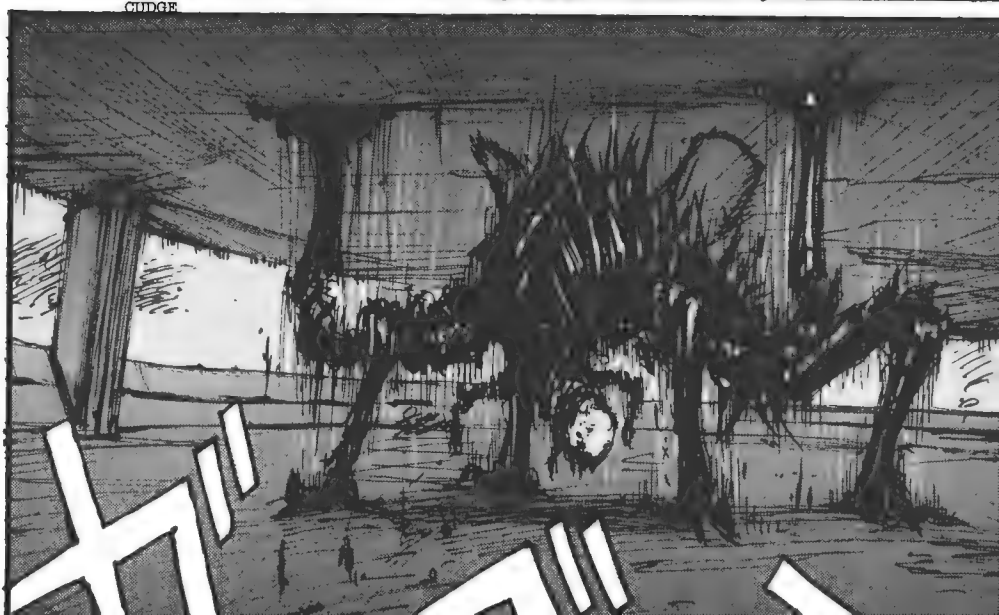



SLIDE

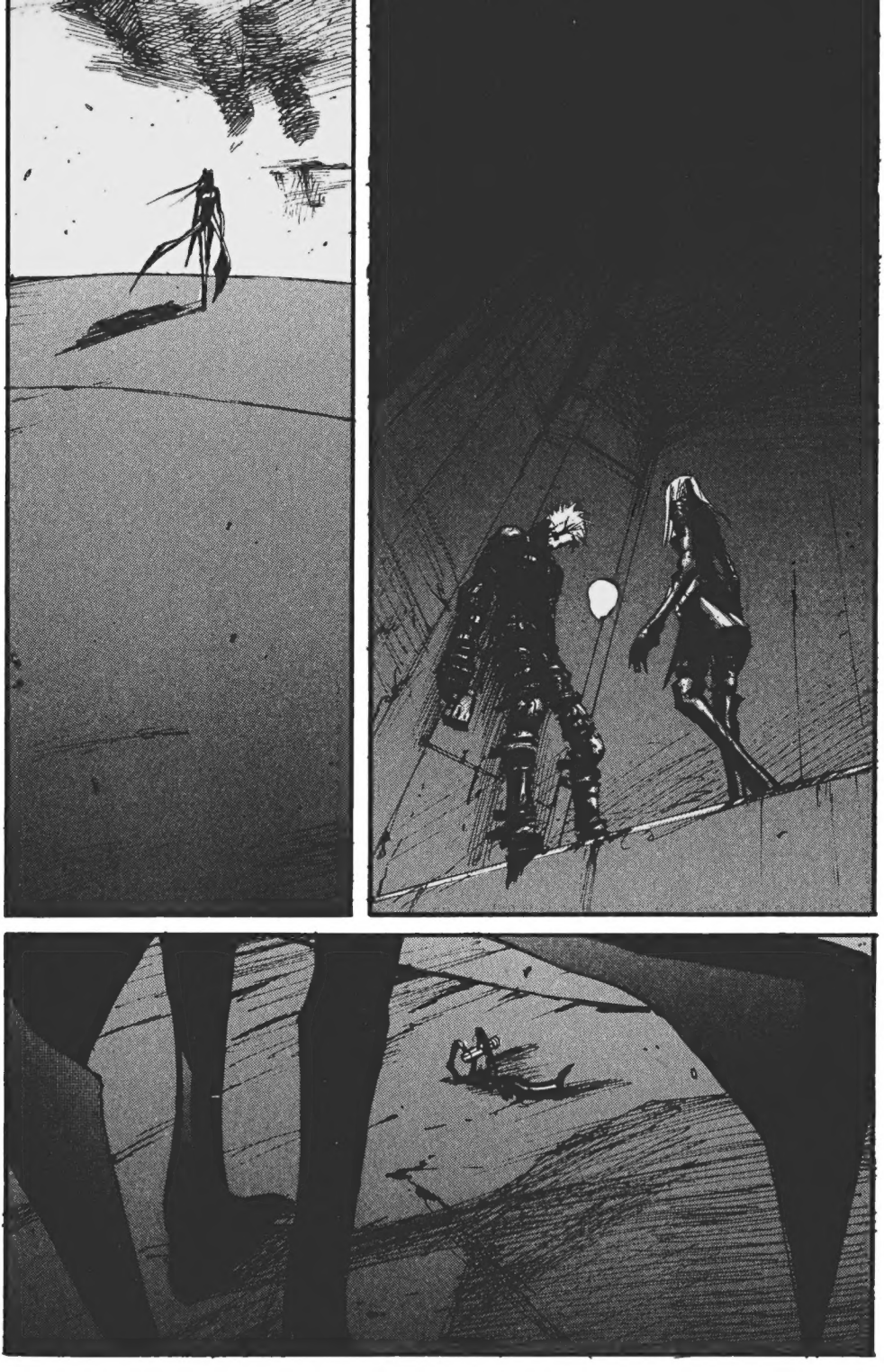
CLICK
CLICK

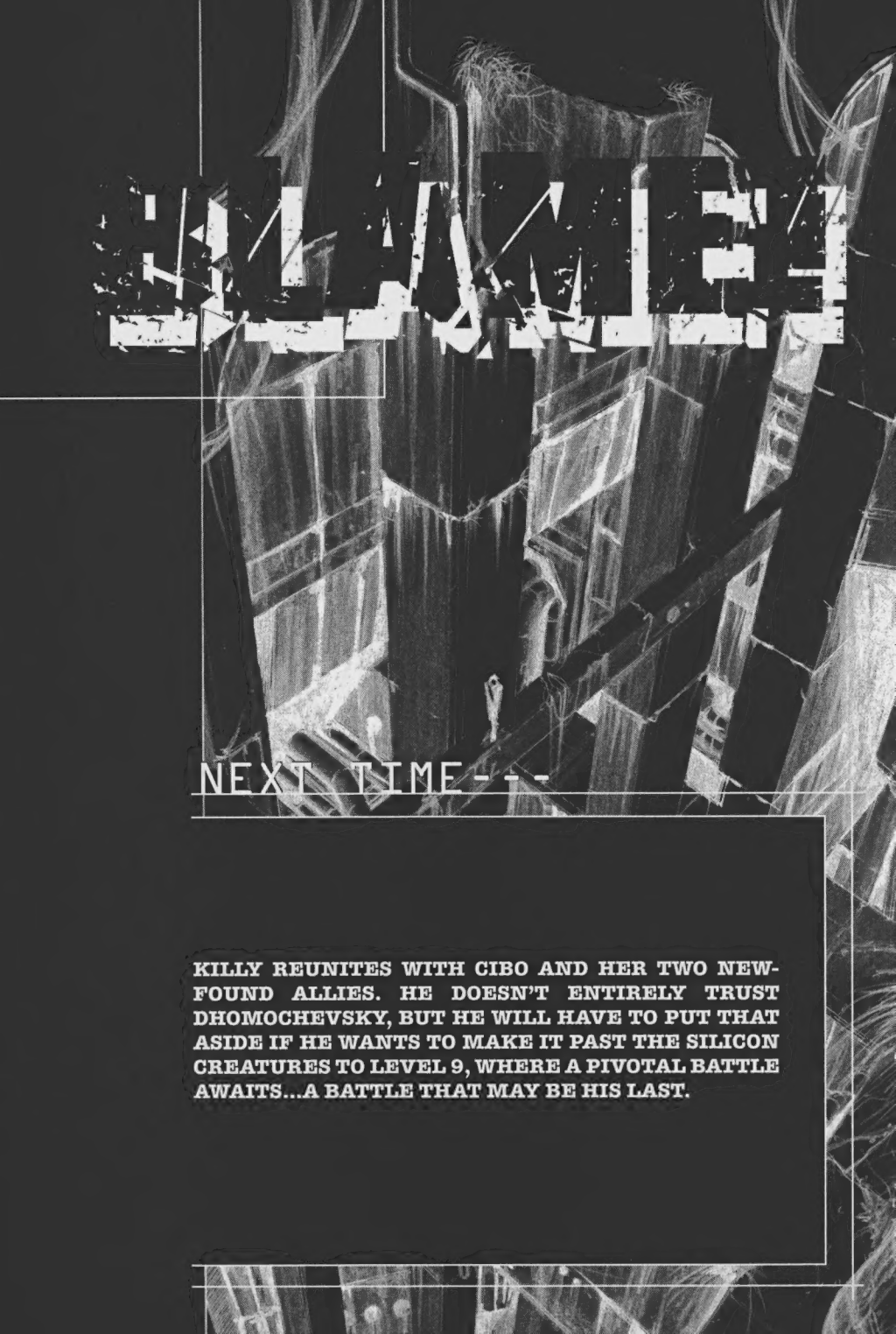
THRUD

CUDGE



CREAAAAK
CRUNCH
DMMM





NEXT TIME---

KILLY REUNITES WITH CIBO AND HER TWO NEW-FOUND ALLIES. HE DOESN'T ENTIRELY TRUST DHOMOCHEVSKY, BUT HE WILL HAVE TO PUT THAT ASIDE IF HE WANTS TO MAKE IT PAST THE SILICON CREATURES TO LEVEL 9, WHERE A PIVOTAL BATTLE AWAITS...A BATTLE THAT MAY BE HIS LAST.

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